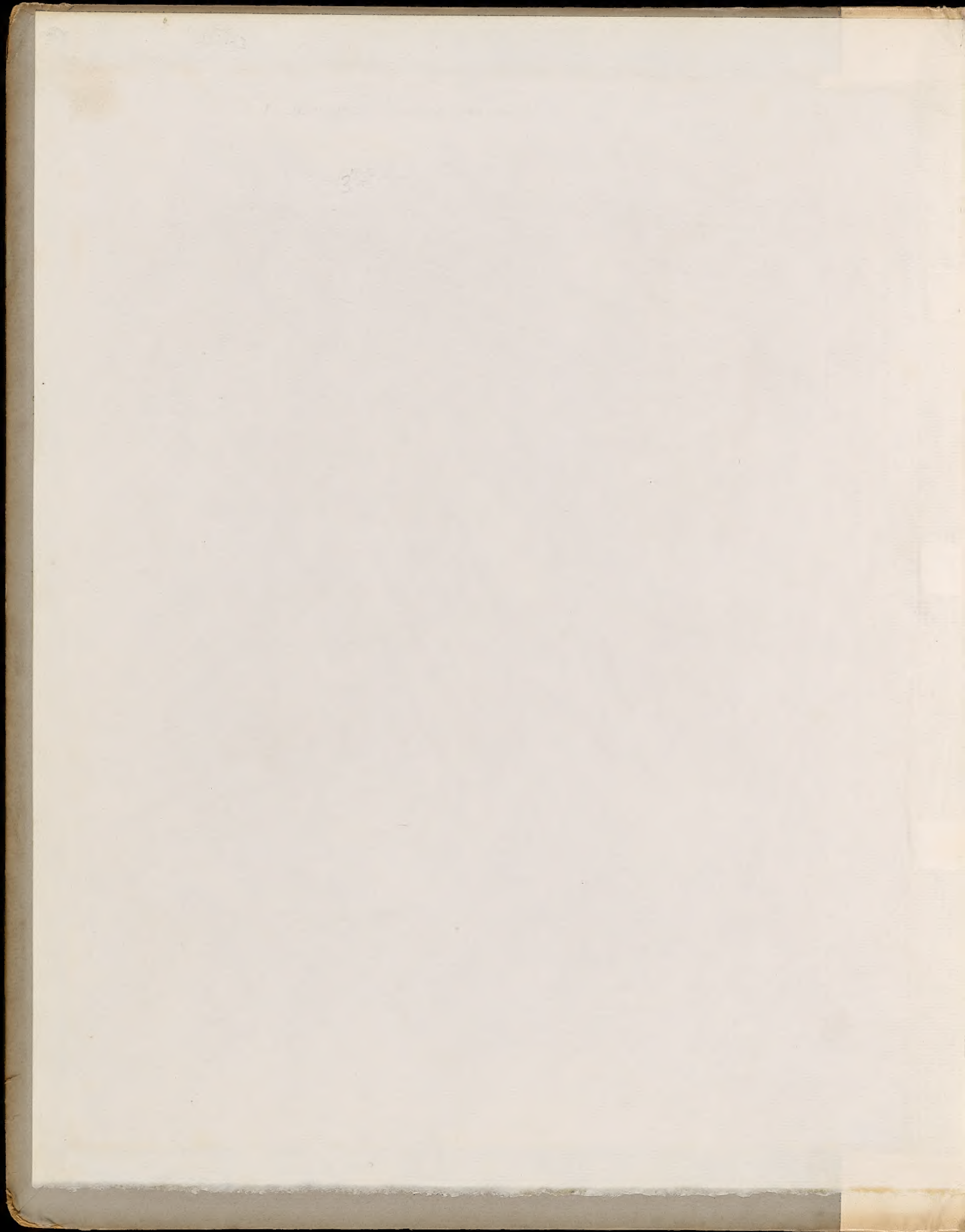


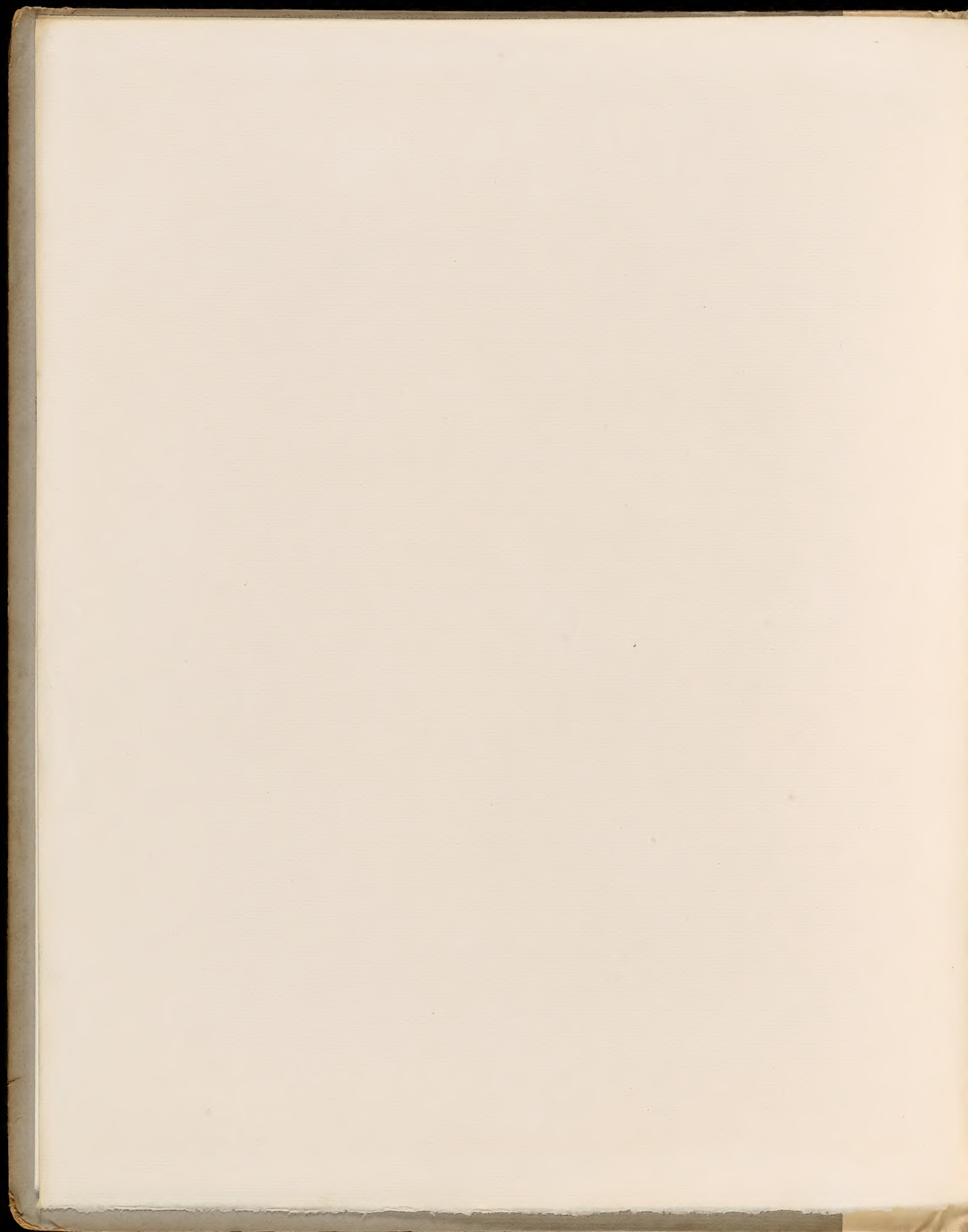
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THE HISTORICAL PAINTINGS IN THE HALL  
OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SKINNERS

THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES  
OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

THE HISTORICAL PAINTINGS IN THE  
GREAT HALL IN LONDON OF THE WORSHIPFUL  
COMPANY OF SKINNERS AFORETIME OF THE  
CRAFT AND MYSTERY OF THE GUILD OF THE  
BODY OF CHRIST BY FRANK BRANGWYN A.R.A.  
R. E. MEMBRE DE SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DES BEAUX-  
ARTS SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE BELGE ROYAL ACADEMY MIL-  
AN ROYAL ACADEMY STOCKHOLM WITH AN INTRO-  
DUCTORY ESSAY AND SOME HISTORICAL NOTES BY  
WARWICK H. DRAPER M.A. LIVERYMAN OF THE COMPANY



PRINTED AT THE CARADOC PRESS RAVENSCOURT SQUARE HAM-  
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DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO  
THE EARL OF ROSEBERY, K.G.  
HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE  
SKINNERS' COMPANY OF LONDON

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Essay on the Past and Present of the Guild	1
Historical Notes on the Panels at Skinners' Hall :—	
I.—Skin-Merchants or Skinners selecting Furs and Pelts at the City Mart in the days before the Guild of Corpus Christi received their Charter	8
Panel	9
Study.	11
II.—The Granting of their Charter to the Skinners' Company by Edward III., 1327	14
Panel.	15
Study.	17
III.—A River Procession of the City's and Companies' Barges to Westminster, 1453	20
Panel.	21
Study.	23
IV.—The Opening of the Strife between the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors, 1484	26
Panel.	27
Study.	29
V.—The Founding of Tonbridge School by Sir Andrew Judd, 1553	34
Panel.	35
VI.—An Incident in the Defence of London Bridge by Sir Andrew Judd, A.D., 1554	38
Panel.	39
VII.—A City Pageant in Olden Times.	42
Plate.	43
Study.	45
VIII.—The Departure of Sir James Lancaster for the East Indies, A.D., 1594	50
Panel.	51
Three Studies.	53, 55, 68



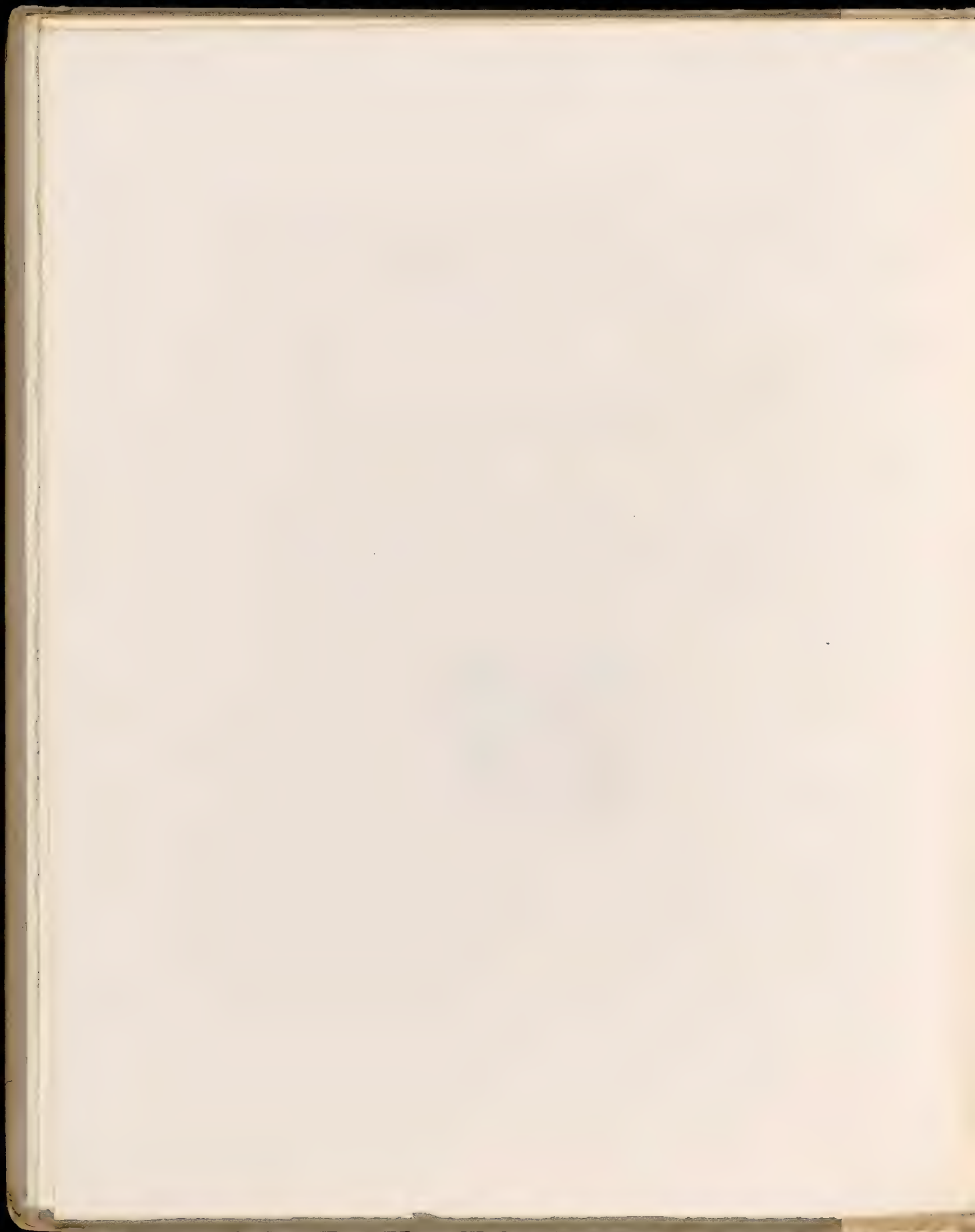
TABLE OF CONTENTS.—*Continued.*

	PAGE
IX.—Reception of General Monk at the Skinners' Hall, April 4th, 1660	58
Panel.	59
Two Studies.	61, 63
X.—Sir Thomas Pilkington's Banquet to King William the Third and Queen Mary, A.D., 1689	66
Panel.	67
Study.	69
XI.—Panel "Harmony"	75
XII.—Panel "The Fruits of Industry," originally intended to occupy the place of "Harmony"	77
Study.	79

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*NOTE.*—The Historical Panels, here reproduced by the leave of the Court of the Skinners' Company as the owners of the paintings, were painted between the years 1902 and 1909, and are hung as a scheme of decoration round the walls of the Banqueting Hall of the Company. Each panel is 9 ft. 6 in. in height, excepting the "Harmony" set over the Musicians' Gallery.





## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD



HISTORY of the London Guilds should shew a curious maze of change and progress, decline and renascence, monopoly and benevolence. In France the mediæval Guilds perished in the Revolution with the powerful assistance of Turgot; in Belgium and the Netherlands they disappeared before what De Laveleye in this connection called "*l'ex-tension incessante et indispensable de l'intervention de l'État.*"

In Switzerland the companies of Berne still prosper. In the English Provinces, where once every market town and almost every hamlet had its guild, they have almost vanished except that the Merchant Venturers of Bristol indeed still own great property; the Hallamshire Cutlers' Company hold their annual Feast at Sheffield; and in Dorsetshire the Ancient Guild of Purbeck Marblers and Stonecutters still ply their trade.

The fact is that most Trade-guilds were disestablished and disendowed at the Reformation, except in London, the head of the towns of the Staple. Even in London most Guilds, it is true, have lost their direct relation to the Crafts or Trades from which they took their names. Stationers' Hall and Apothecaries' Hall still do good public work. The Fishmongers appoint inspectors in Billingsgate Market. The Gunmakers are said to have a proof house. The Vintners and Dyers protect the swans. The Goldsmiths assay plate and keep the Pyx. But for the most part their 40,000 members cannot and do not say that they any longer officially represent the glory of English industry and enterprise. They claim rather, and with good reason, to be the nurseries of charities and the seminaries of good citizens. Most of them give that generous hospitality which has ever been part of the character of prosperous cities. In a utilitarian age they honour themselves by honouring the chief men in political, judicial, martial and commercial spheres of energy, although it cannot be said that, while Chaucer was a Vintner and Sir Joshua Reynolds a Paper-stainer, the modern Companies have paid due thanks to the Arts and Letters, which make the savour of



### THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD

life. But many of them discharge, with efficiency and with a dignity which crowns the labour, not only the tasks of governing almshouses and aiding hospitals but the more stirring duty of controlling great schools for the youth of England. And among them all the Skinners' Company holds high place.

The historical paintings with which Mr. Frank Brangwyn has decorated the Great Hall of the Skinners' Company in London City reflect the stir and colour of the long-drawn Pageant of the Guild.

They begin with a glimpse into a rude market of pelts and furs, held (let us think it) on rough quays of timber by the mouth of the Walbrook, where now is Dowgate Hill, long before the *Gilda Mercatoria* of Britain imitated the *Collegia Opificum* of Ancient Rome. They end, with another panel, by showing the spectator something of the rich fruits and handsome fare with which King William the Third and his Queen were regaled by a Skinner who was Lord Mayor in 1689. At the beginning, a common scene; at the end, and always saving the big timeless panel over the Musicians Gallery, a mere incident. Even without the painter, one can imagine the pageant of the intervening centuries of civic history — the market life of an ever-growing London, a roll of common scenes and mere incidents, distinguished at intervals by the greater episodes which in the life of a city as of a citizen give that life its joy of hope and fulfilment. We can conjure up, if we give a little reconstruction to the past out of which we are made, visions of the masters of the craft fencing themselves about with rules to protect their monopoly of their trade by limiting their numbers and shutting out intruders. At first, the whole fraternity of the single trade, employers and wage-earners alike, would be bound into one fraternal fellowship as against the world without. But as early as the fifteenth century, it appears that the antagonism between the man who asks and the man who pays a wage was much the same as now. The compact within the Guild of masters and men became more visionary and artificial. Town Councils began to make alliance with the Guilds, and, in some instances, passed laws which, by shutting out apprentices from the freedom of the craft, debarred them from the franchise of the town. Even when the journeymen began to combine for self-protection "the guild-system triumphed by creating a formless and incoherent multitude of hired labourers, who had no independence."<sup>1</sup> In

<sup>1</sup> *Town Life in the Fifteenth Century*, by Mrs J. R. Green (1894), p. 108.

## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD

the sixteenth century, "in the spacious days," this economic trouble was merged out of our ken in the spectacle of the national struggle against Spain and the religious strife at home, as when Sir Andrew Judd, good Skinner, helped to scotch the Wyatt rebels by London Bridge the year before he founded Tonbridge School. A little later came the new traffic with the South and with the East Indies, when Sir Thomas Smythe could bid Sir James Lancaster, one of Drake's men, the 'God-speed' of a brother Pellipar. But by this time the commercial connection of the Companies with the trades and manufacturers of London had ceased in practice together with the Catholicism which was of the essence of their religious rules. The reformation and permutating changes of industry had conspired to destroy the original objects of the Guilds. The property, land with its increment and cash with its interest, survived its origins, and good-fellowship kept the owners of it together, honest for the most part (let us hope) and charitable certainly; such is the way of the world. The Skinners who entertained General Monk in 1660 and King William in 1689 were, as regards the trade of Skinners, the same, no more no less, as the Skinners who in 1794 honoured Admirai Lord Howe, or in 1895 Mr. Speaker Peel, or in 1909 Lord Rosebery.

The outstanding episodes of the history of 'the Craft and Mystery of the Guild of Skinners' are, in simple truth, typical of the English city life of the middle-ages. They illustrate the sturdy energy, the jovial 'give-and-take,' the prudent benefactions, the brave enterprise and the obstinate pertinacity which have for long been the characteristics of the race. It is to these episodes (more precisely described in subsequent pages) that Mr. Brangwyn has brought the conventions of his art, almost oriental in its scheme of colour, its balancing of bright splashes and its 'arabesques of silhouettes,' but most certainly western of the west in its powerful masculinity of purpose and execution.

Who will deny that the whole vision of this decoration is as vivid and gay as the page of the careful journal of Durer of Nuremberg himself, one of the few other men in history who could order the painting of a great wall? One may aptly quote the diary of his journey to the Netherlands recording just such a scene as in London must often have included a company of Skinners in some city-pageant:—"I saw the great Procession from the Church of our Lady at Antwerp when the

### *THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD*

whole town of every craft and rank was assembled, each dressed in his best according to his rank. And all ranks and guilds had their signs by which they were known. In the intervals great costly pole-candles were borne, and their long old Frankish trumpets of silver. There were also in the German fashion many pipers and drummers. All the instruments were loudly and noisily blown and beaten . . . . I saw the Procession pass along the street, the people being arranged in rows, each man some distance from his neighbour, but the rows close one behind another. There were the Goldsmiths, the Painters, the Masons, the Broderers, the Sculptors, the Joiners, the Carpenters, the Sailors, the Fishermen, the Butchers, the Leatherers, the Clothmakers, the Bakers, the Tailors, the Cordwainers — indeed workmen of all kinds, and many craftsmen and dealers who work for their livelihood. Likewise the shopkeepers and merchants and their assistants of all kinds were there. After these came the shooters with guns, bows and cross-bows, and the horsemen and foot-soldiers also. Then followed the watch of the Lords Magistrates. Then came a fine troop, all in red, nobly and splendidly clad. Before them, however, went all the religious Orders and the members of some Foundations, very devoutly, all in their different robes . . . At the end came a great Dragon which St. Margaret and her maidens led by a girdle; she was especially beautiful. Behind her came St. George with his squire, a very goodly knight in armour. In this host also rode boys and maidens for the most part finely and splendidly dressed in the costumes of many lands, representing various Saints. From beginning to end the Procession lasted more than two hours before it was past our house. And so many things were there that I could never write them all in a book, so I let it well alone."

Out then, of the background of the history of the Skinners' Guild, Mr. Brangwyn has revived in his own fashion the colour and the stir, the energy and joviality of it all, hinting indeed at the episodes but more conscious, as befits a great scheme of decoration, of the rhythm and progress of the whole than of this or that portrait of a man or a thing. The whole has a unity, because every life or career, whether of an individual or a society, has the thread of some continuity running through its varied pattern, the warm blood of vitality pulsing, now gently, now hotly, in all its actions. It may seem a far cry from the lazy loafing in the early pelt-market to the



## THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD

modern clatter and hum of industrial London,

“But here’s the heaving murmur  
Of million wheels that whir,  
Here is the essence, pulsing warm,  
That keeps the world astir.”

Mr. Brangwyn, of all men, declines to let his emotions run only in literary or antiquarian channels. In contrasting the colours of his pattern and in massing the harmonies of his design, he alludes indeed to this march of time, notes the progress of history’s manners, costumes and accoutrements, paints Edward of 1327 rightly as the boy king and Sir James Lancaster as the sunburnt Tudor mariner that he was. But his art is not archæology, and one feels that the whole orchestration of these panels is the music of life’s enjoyment and labour, culminating in the *finale*, the endless *finale*, of the panel symbolising “Harmony.”

Originally, indeed, Mr. Brangwyn conceived and in fact painted for the deep recess of the Musicians’ Gallery a large panel to be called “The Fruits of Industry.” In this noble piece, under the blue heaven which not even man’s factories can wholly obscure, across the river where the bathers lose the grime of their toil and refresh their strength, sit the human family, the men bearing the fruits of their labour, the mother serene possessor of the beauty and honour of her womanhood, and the infant, sublimely unconscious of a great inheritance. They are all as ignorant, it may be, of the historical episodes of the Skinners’ Company as of the other worlds which swim in the firmament outside their own Earth whose globe lies in miniature among them. But these are they who ever give to human life its stir and colour, the winners of the fruits of industry. It is the simple and yet grand drama that lies behind history at every turn. It is the drama that the poet and the painter see for us, that we may see it.

But feeling that justice of vision could not be given to this panel in the depth of a recess remote from the floor of the Hall which he was decorating, the painter has by his own wish substituted a vision of “Harmony,” at once brighter in tone and lighter in its concept. Against the shining beauty of a summer sky sit the musicians, one a noble lady with a lute, inspiring and inspired, breaking into glorious song —

*THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THE GUILD*

perhaps even the goddess herself—

“the sphere-descended maid,  
Friend of Pleasure, Wisdom’s aid!”

So the series ends, and the history of these panels turns with notes of present and perpetual music to the future.





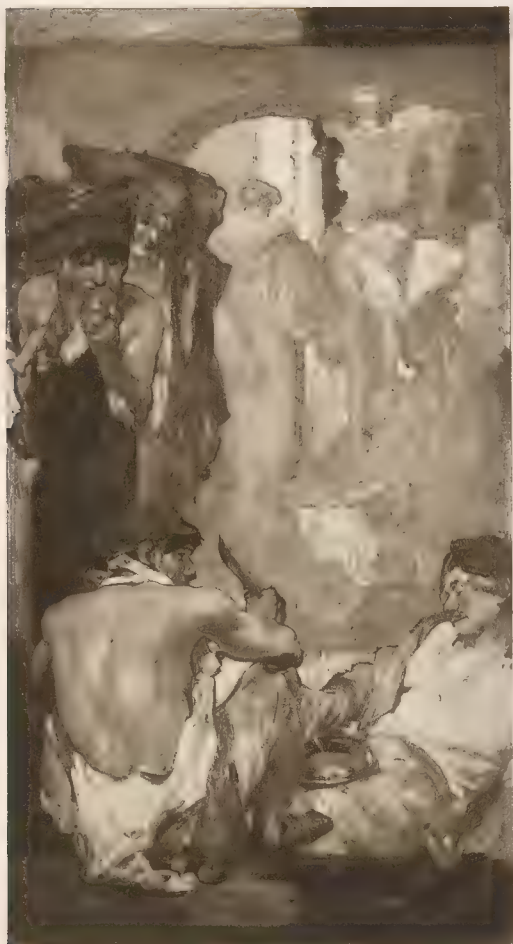
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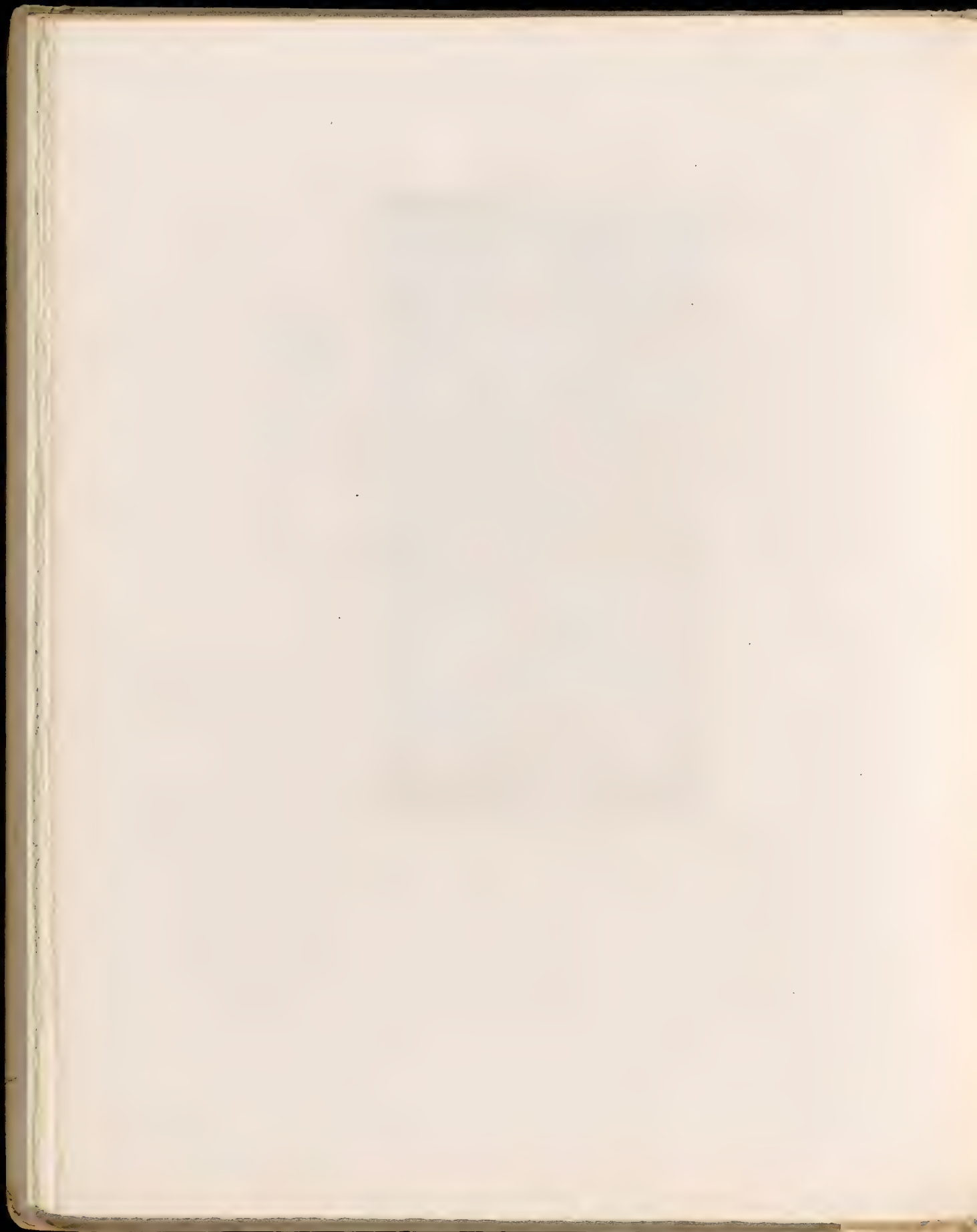
*SKIN-MERCHANTS OR SKINNERS SELECTING FURS AND PELTS AT THE CITY MART IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE GUILD OF CORPUS CHRISTI RECEIVED ITS CHARTER.*



ULIUS CÆSAR tells us that the inland Britons (like Adam and Eve of the older story) were "clothed with skins," and in his phrase "pellibus vestiti" we come near the mediæval Latin form of the name of the Skinners' Company, "Societas Pellipariorum." For centuries, then, we may well suppose that in some market-place of London, either on the banks of the village where the Romans later built the citadel of the Tower, or on the timber-built quays of the Wallbrook to the west of the early town, or even within the walls of the City when in the reign of Edward II., as we know, the Skinners had already formed themselves into a trade-guild, merchants could be seen selecting good skins, furs or pelts for dress or hangings. So here amongst the great piles which men have hauled and overhauled for inspection, as now in a carpet-market of Persia or Turkey, the early Skinners are inspecting and making bargains, while a tanner sits munching his apple in the foreground. The group suggests its own crowd. There could be no date to such a scene, but it comes before the Guild received its earliest Charter.















## II.

### THE GRANTING OF THEIR CHARTER TO THE SKINNERS' COMPANY BY EDWARD III., MARCH 1st. 1327.



IN 1327, with the aid of his counsellors and lawyers, the youthful King Edward III. granted their first charter to "Our beloved men of Our City of London called Skinners." Such incorporation is too early to have been precipitated by the scourge of the Black Death plague which a few years later seriously injured the labour-market of England. Licences to hold property were also granted in this reign by the Charters of the Goldsmiths, Merchant Taylors, Vintners, Grocers, Fishmongers, Drapers, and Salters. An illuminated book of Vellum, dating from a later reign and still preserved by the Skinners Company, records the impressive oath taken by a Skinner of the 14th Century:—

"Ye shall swere that ye shall be good and trewe liege men unto oure liege lord the Kyng, and to the Kynges heyres; ye shall trewlye sell and trewlye worche after ye ordinances of the crafte, and as trewe workemanship askyth; and all manner ordenaunces lefull and lawfull of this crafte, the secretis and counsellis of the same, ye shall wele and trulie kepe and holde; ye shalbe redy at all manner of Commands that bene made for the worships of the Cite and for the Crafte, or ellis to pay youre mercementis that ben ordeyned and assigned therfore; and all the poyntes and ordenaunces longyng to the fraunchise of the seid Cite, and for the wele of the seyd Crafte of Skynners ye shall kepe on youre behalve — so God you helpe, and all Seyntis."

The same volume sets out the Articles or Statutes regulating this particular trade and imposing fines for such offences as the mixing of "old and new peltry," for beating furs or skins in the street, and for selling inferior foreign goods.

No mention is made in this first charter of "the Sisters of the Guild," who received ample protection from Richard II. some sixty years later and again as late as in the days of Charles II.

In Mr. Brangwyn's panel, the royal lad of fifteen, who in his manhood gave order and commercial prosperity to his kingdom, sits on a high dais among the











*THE GRANTING OF THEIR CHARTER TO THE SKINNERS' COMPANY*

changing sunlight and shade of a pergola outside the walls of his castle. Leaning forward, he listens to the petition of the Skinners who read from a scroll. Among them, it may be, is Thomas Legge, a noteworthy citizen who also claimed Italian ancestry, and later was twice Mayor of London. In the foreground, before a barrier that fences off the group round the King, a lawyer laden with deeds is whispering to an officer of the Court. A page stands to the right, heedless of the ceremony but guarding his master's shield.

### III.

#### A RIVER PROCESSION OF THE CITY'S AND THE COMPANIES' BARGES TO WESTMINSTER, A.D. 1453.



THE Thames has made London and still gives to the greatest city of the world much of her character and beauty, and of such unity as she has. In past days the tidal ebb and flow rendered the river a noble pageant ground. More the pity that with rush of land-cars and tube-trains and the scrambling life of her citizens, London makes no joyful use of her Thames!

For centuries, and at least from 1453, the City Guilds on the festival of St. Simon and St. Jude went by water from the City to Westminster to escort the new Lord Mayor to take the customary oaths in the Court of Exchequer. In Shakespeare's day one could

"stand in Temple Gardens, and behold

"London herself on her proud stream afloat;

"For so appeared this fleet of magistracy,

"Holding due course to Westminster."

If Wren could have carried out his great scheme for the new town-planning of London, preserved at All Souls', Oxford, with the Halls of the City Guilds rebuilt along the Embankment, east of Temple Gardens, what impetus for a noble Civic Water-Pageant the Companies might still be giving!

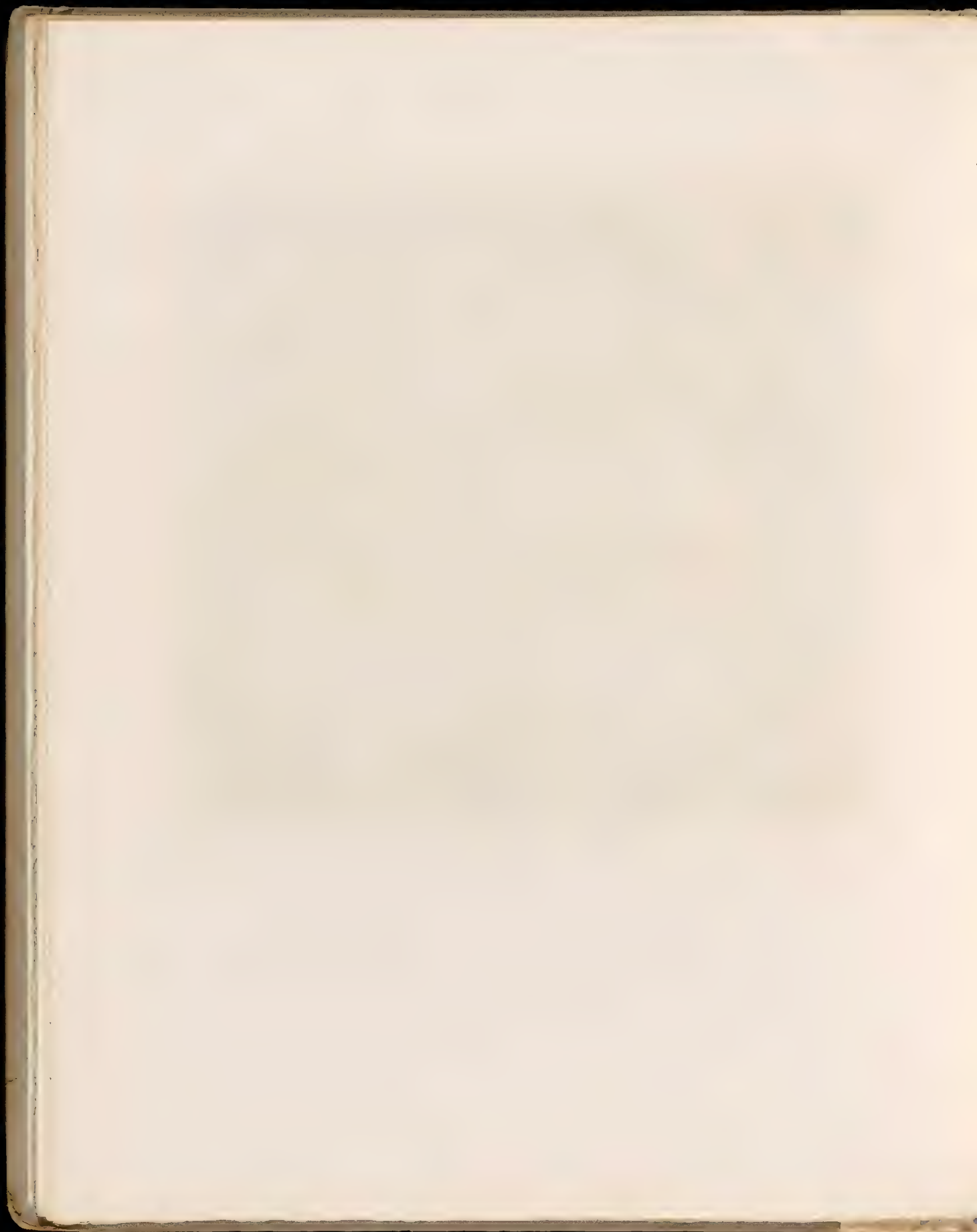
In the old days each of the larger Guilds had its own barge, and in the eighteenth century the shallow ship of the Skinners was, according to an extant specification, to be "cut out of English oak," over 70 feet in length, with a "house" of nearly half that length and a decorated state-room.

The Skinners' Barge, it may well be supposed, took its place in the pageant of 1662, which stirred Evelyn to a rich-coloured entry in his diary:—

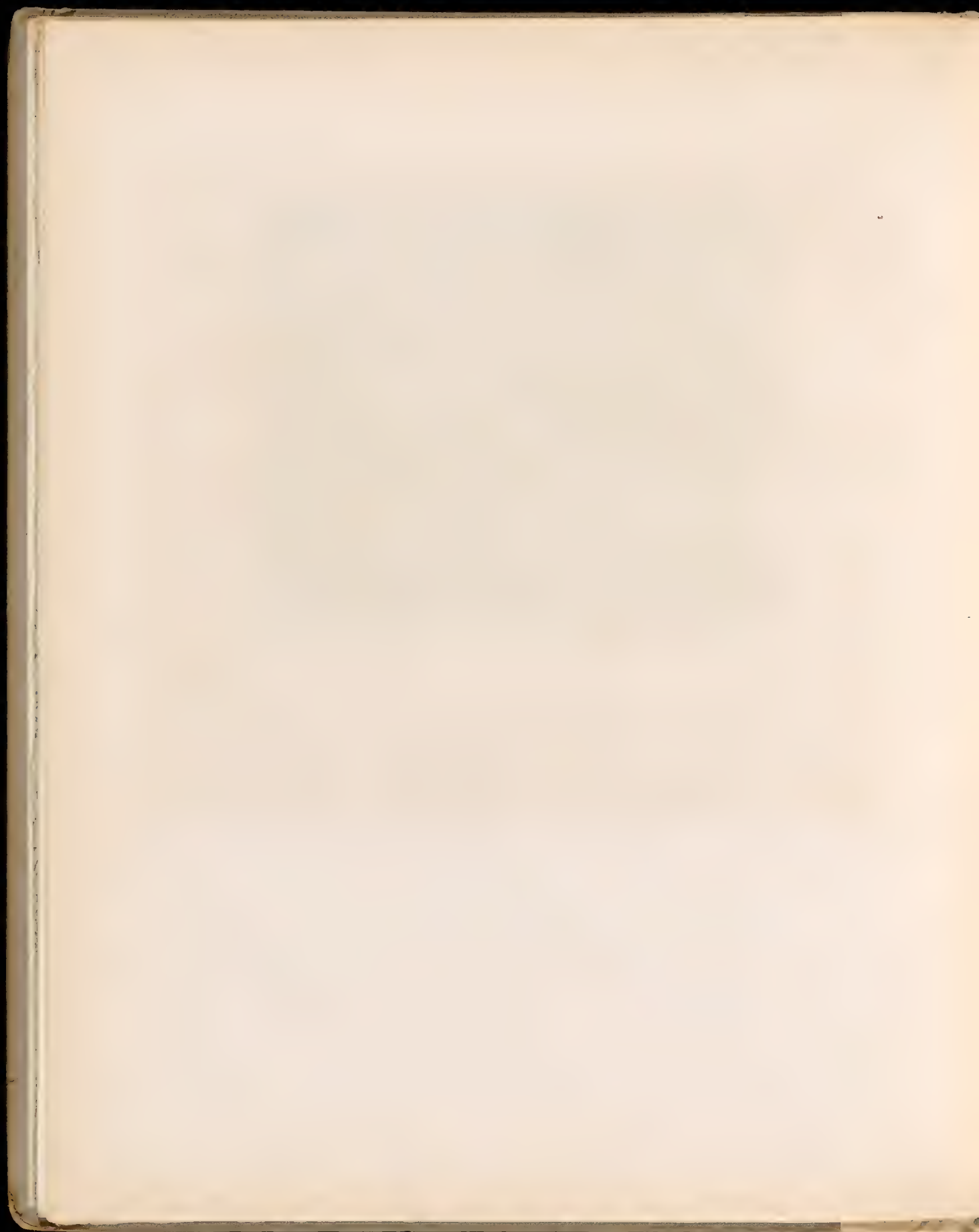
"I was spectator of the most magnificent triumph that ever floated on the Thames, considering the innumerable boates and vessels, dress'd and adorn'd with all imaginable pomp; but above all the thrones, arches, pageants, and other stately representations,











### A RIVER PROCESSION TO WESTMINSTER

stately barges of the Lord Maier and Companies, with various inventions, musiq, and peales of ordnance, both from ye vessells and the shore, going to meete and conduct the new Queene from Hampton Court to Whitehall, at the first time of her coming to towne. In my opinion, it far exceeded all ye Venetian Bucentoras, &c., on the Ascension when they go to espouse the Adriatic. His Matie and the Queene came in an antiq shap'd open vessell, cover'd with a state or canopy of cloth of gold, made in form of a cupola, supported with high Corinthian pillars, wreath'd with flowers, festoons and garlands. I was in our new built vessell sailing amongst them."

In 1849, the Skinners and other Companies in their barges attended Queen Victoria on a royal visitation to the Custom House, and returned with her to Whitehall. This appears to have been the last ceremonial use of the Skinners' vessel, although in the higher waters of the river, between Putney and Richmond, the ship seems to have been used still later for trips of pleasure by the members of the Company with their ladies. As the rowers swept her homewards down the rippling tide, when the dancing on the moon-lit deck was finished, there floated on the evening air the cadence of the rhythmic glee—

"Sleep, gentle lady, the flowers are closing,  
The very winds and waves reposing;  
Sleep while we sing 'Goodnight'—  
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!"

Mr. Brangwyn's panel takes us back in these river-annals, back even past the 'triumph' which Evelyn saw. Over the heads of the flower-crowned musicians who are seated in the foremost barge, the spectator catches a glimpse of the pageant moving along the flood to Westminster. Boys make music on the high stern of another ship to the left, and the air is as full of standards, flags and streamers as of "trumpets, shawms and other divers instruments all the way playing and making great melody."



IV.

THE OPENING OF THE STRIFE BETWEEN THE SKINNERS AND THE  
MERCHANT TAYLORS, A.D. 1484.



IT IS sometimes forgotten that arbitration is not the invention of the nineteenth century.

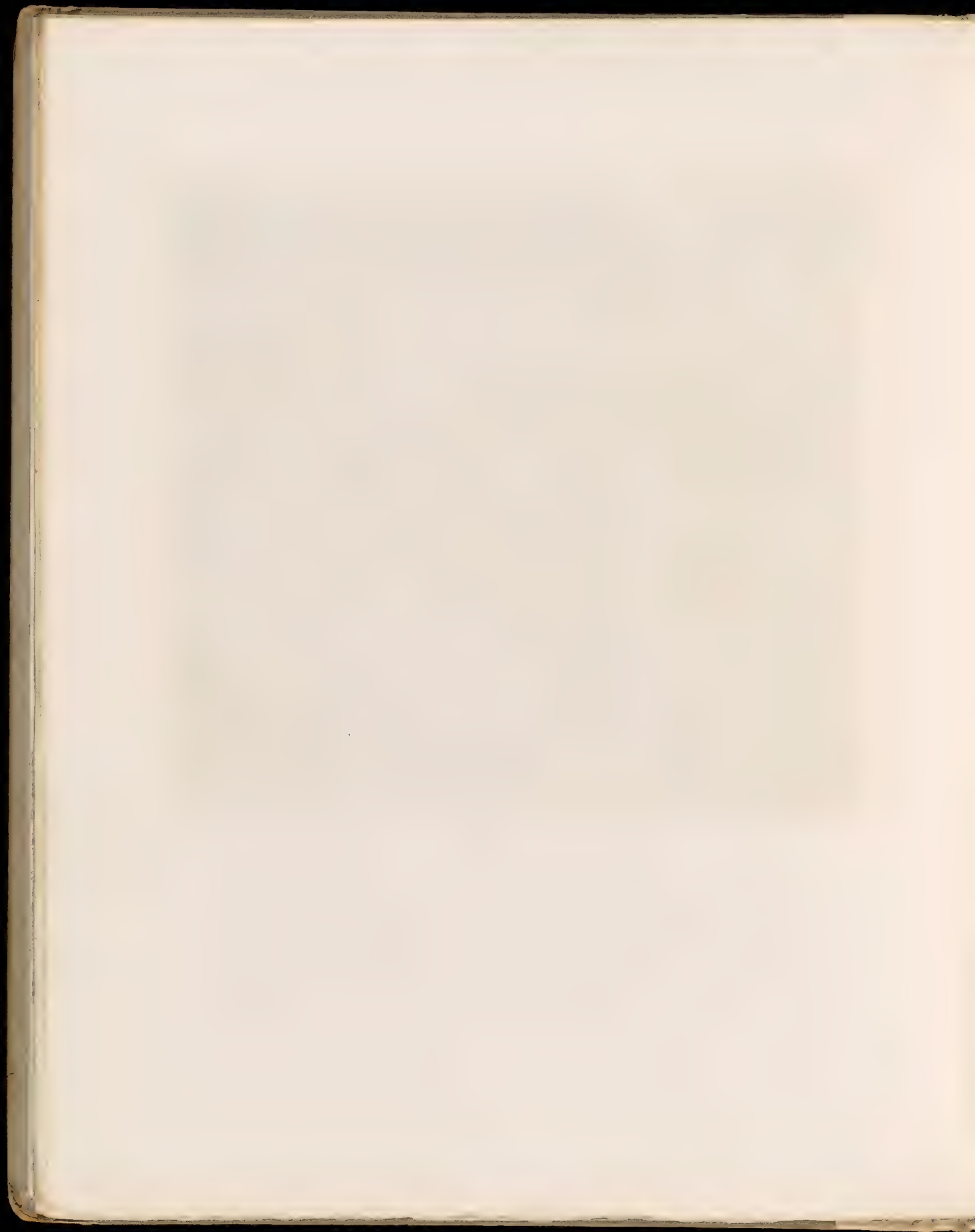
In 1483, Sir Robert Billesdon, as Lord Mayor of London, emulated the wisdom of Solomon and gave an award avoiding even the unhappy consequences of the judgment of that ancient King.

As Civic processions became frequent in a growing City, questions as to order of precedence between the Guilds gave rise to wranglings and riots. In 1339, the Skinners collided so violently with the Fishmongers that, in order to deter the more troublous spirits, Thomas Haunsart and John le Brewer were executed in Cheapside for rescuing certain brawlers from the magistrates. Offences were not confined to the populace. In 1417, Lord Strong and Sir John Trussell quarrelled so outrageously in a City church that in the *melée* one Thomas Pedwardynne, Fishmonger, was slain, and as a result Lord Strong was cursed with book, bell and candle, and obliged to do penance publicly through London.<sup>1</sup> In the reign of Richard III. a dispute as to precedence between the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors in 1484 became so bitter that the Masters and Wardens of the Mysteries of Skinners and Taylors mutually agreed to submit the same for settlement to the arbitration of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City.

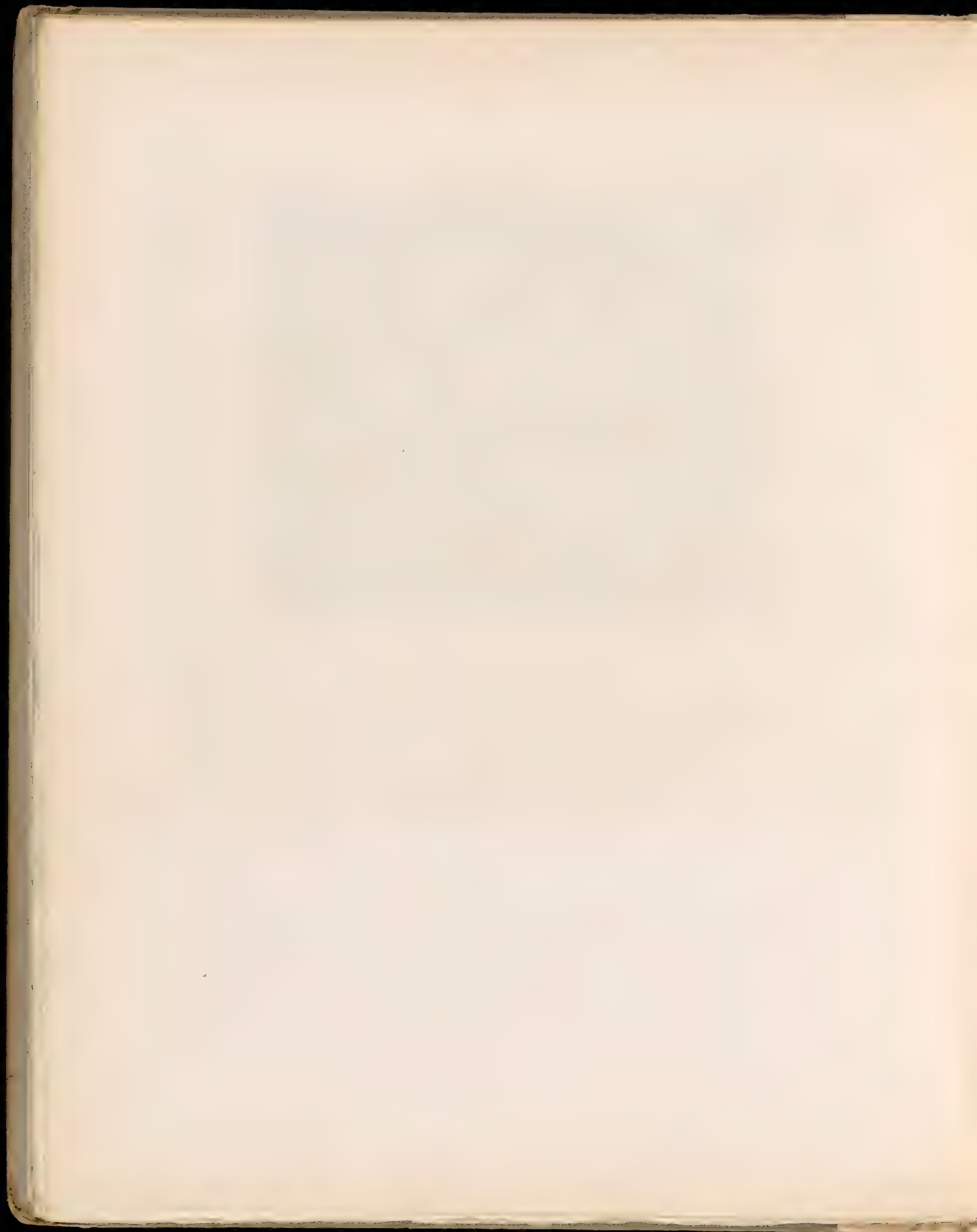
Mr. Brangwyn's panel shows the beginning of the wrangle. Master-workmen, apprentices and, without doubt, some representatives of that unemployed fraternity which loves a street accident or public squabble, are filling the roadway. The ensigns and badges of the several guilds identify the scene. An old Skinner—perhaps Sir William Martin or John Draper, the Masters of the Guild for 1485 and 1486,—endeavours to explain the rights of the matter to a Merchant Taylor who, without prejudice, may be described as truculent.

The sequel, as described in the "History and antiquity of the Worshipful Company of Skinners,"<sup>1</sup> was an award, dated the 10th of April, 1484, directing "that the Skinners should invite the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors to dine once a year at











### SKINNERS AND MERCHANT TAYLORS

their Common Hall on the Vigil of Corpus Christi, if they then make an 'Open Dyner,' and that the Merchant Taylors should, similarly, invite the Master and Wardens of the Skinners to dine at their Common Hall on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and further that the Skinners should go in procession before the Merchant Taylors one year, and the Merchant Taylors before the Skinners another year, commencing from the Feast of Easter each year, except that when an Alderman of either of the two Companies should be Mayor, the Company of which the Mayor is a member should, during the time of his Mayoralty, go before all other Companies, according to the old custom.

This judgment of Sir Robert Billesdon has, with a few exceptions during the Commonwealth, been regularly observed until this day. Once in each year a dinner is given by each Company to the other. On these occasions the chief toast of the evening is given by the presiding Master in honour of the guests who are being entertained, the words of the toast, when it is being given at the Skinners' Hall, being in the following quaint form:—

'The Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Skinners drink health and prosperity to the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, also to the Worshipful Company of Skinners; Merchant Taylors and Skinners, Skinners and Merchant Taylors, root and branch, and may they continue and flourish for ever.'

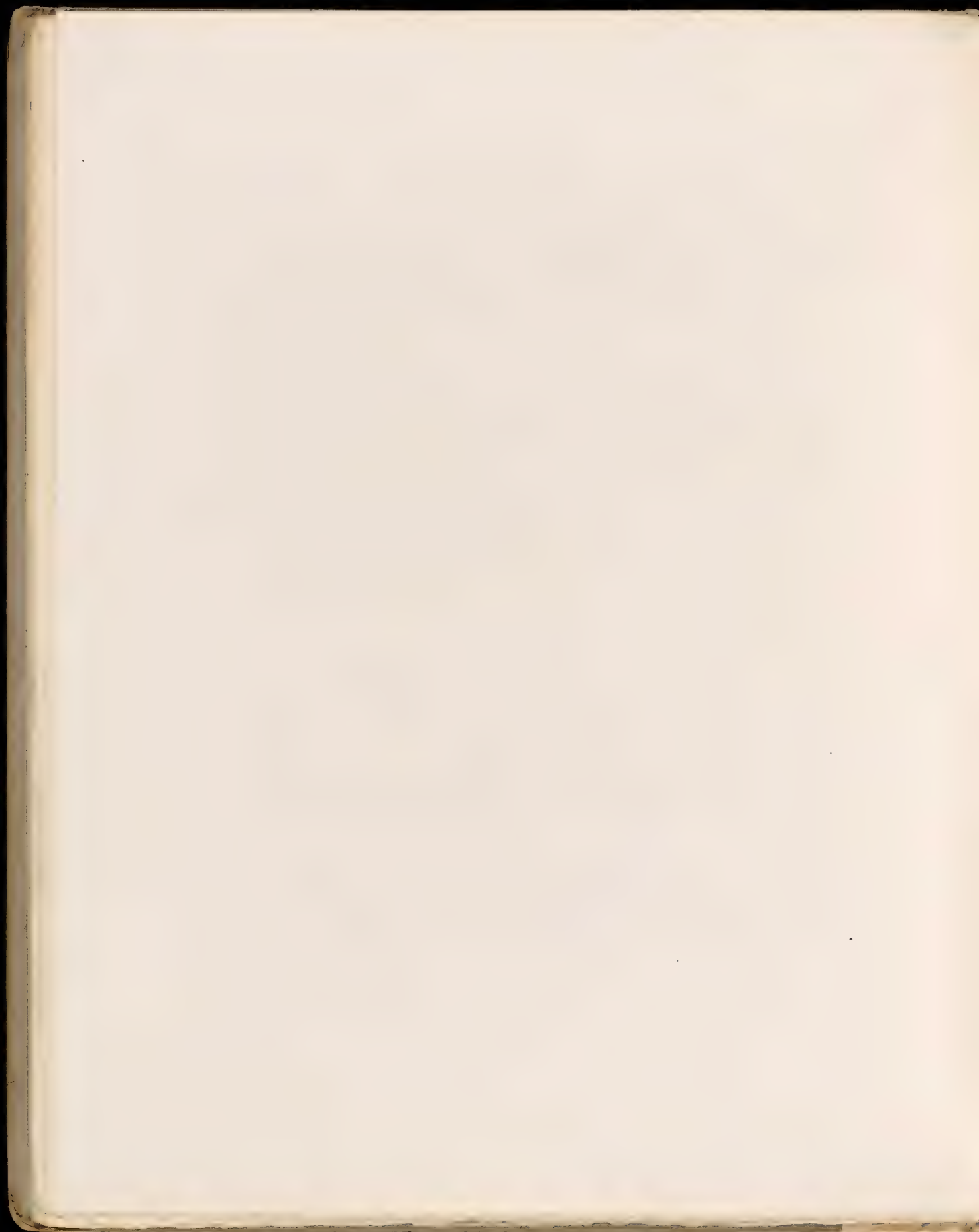
In responding, the Master of the Merchant Taylors concludes by returning the compliment in a similar toast, with the names of the two Companies interchanged."

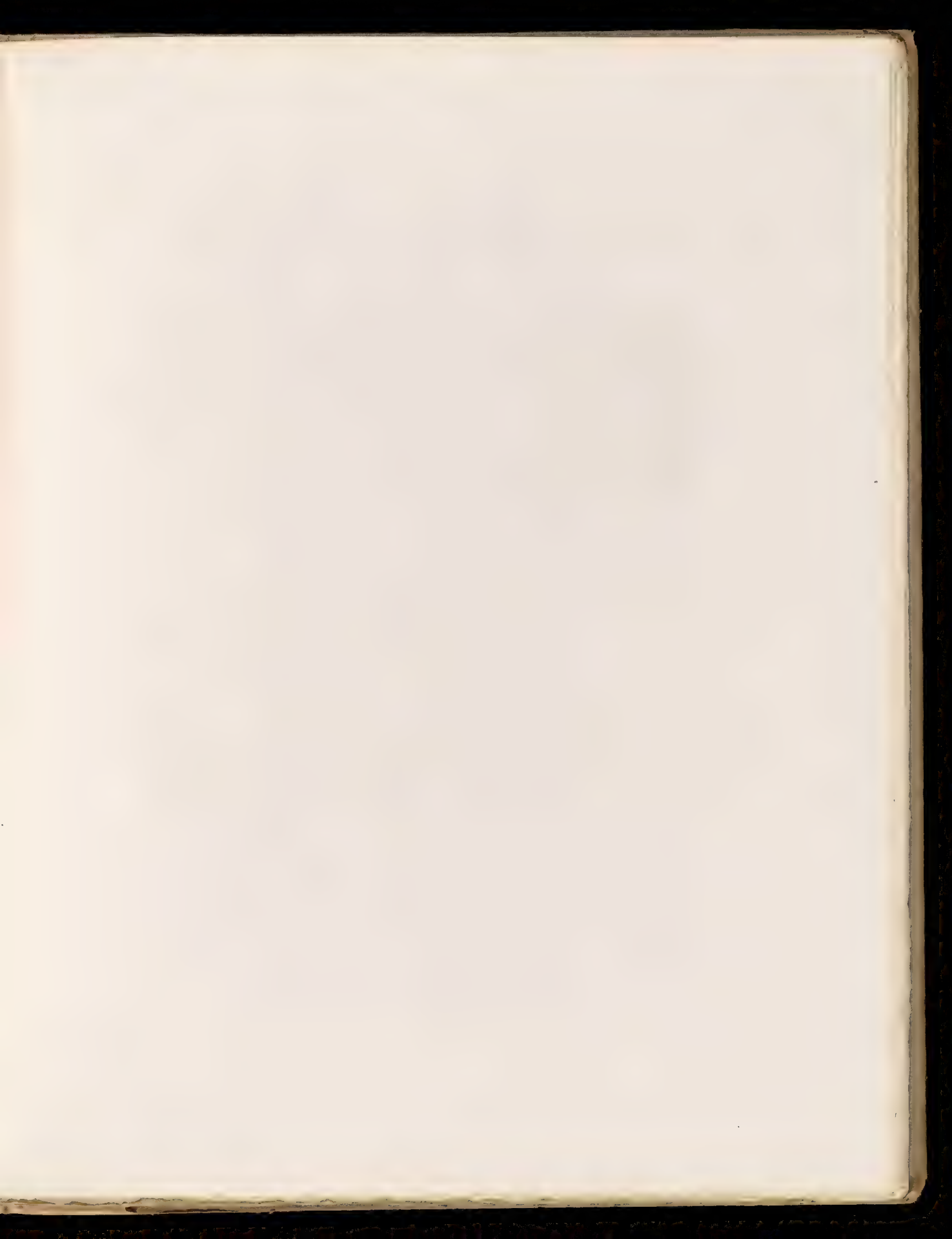
"The nourishing of peace and love" between the Guilds, to quote the original text of the award, was attained so conspicuously, that in the present year of 1909, Lord Rosebery, in addressing his Skinner brethren, remarked of it that—

"When you come to think that for 425 years that rule has prevailed, I think you must feel that you have overstepped the limits of time in the ordinary sense, that you reach back into the centuries, and are connected with something which is as old as the history of England."

As a modern token of their amity, the Skinners and Merchant Taylors have recently deposited in the Royal Exchange a painting by Mr. Edwin Abbey, depicting the actual granting of the award by Sir Robert Billesdon. So does good fellowship prevail.

<sup>1</sup> *London* (1902), pp. 5, 6.





## THE FOUNDING OF TONBRIDGE SCHOOL BY SIR ANDREW JUDD, 1553.



IT CAN be truly said that the quiet founders of the great "public schools" of England have deserved well of their country. The influence of their generous and far-sighted acts has been deep and ever-widening, and their beneficence is peculiarly characteristic of English mercantile prosperity in Tudor and Stuart days. It can also be fairly said that the Livery Companies of the City of London almost alone, in these days of commercial corporations, uphold the honourable tradition. It is the pride and honour of the Skinners' Company to perform and develop the educational trust imposed upon them by Sir Andrew Judd.

In 1553, in the seventh year of the young Edward's reign, Sir Andrew, who had then served his City as Mayor and his Guild five times as Master, procured a grant by Letters Patent for the purpose of erecting and establishing a Free Grammar School for the town of Tonbridge, in the County of Kent. He himself was the governor of the revenues and possessions during his lifetime, but by his will, which took effect in 1558, he provided for its future. "For the maintenance and continuance of the same, he gave and bequeathed to the Master and Wardens of the Craft or Mystery of Skinners of the City of London the Sandhills lying at the back of Holborn, of the yearly value of £13 6s. 8d.<sup>1</sup>; his messuage or tenements in the Old Swan Alley, in Thames Street, and certain premises in Gracechurch Street, and the Close of Great St. Helens; his messuage and gardens in St. Mary Axe; and an annuity of £10 charged upon premises known as the "Bell," in Gracechurch Street. He directed that the rents, revenues and profits arising from the aforesaid messuages, &c., should be employed by the Master and Wardens as follows, viz., in payment of £20 a year to the Schoolmaster of Tonbridge School, for his stipend, £8 a year to the Usher; and to six poor almspeople inhabiting his almshouse within the Close of Great St. Helens, 8d. each weekly (with an allowance of coals), by the hands of the Renter Warden, who for his pains was to have 10s.; to the Skinners' Company for their labours and pains in connection with the visitation to Tonbridge School, £40 a year; and the

<sup>1</sup> This estate, by an interesting coincidence, lies near to the property which, by a testamentary codicil that was fortunate for Rugby School, Laurence Sheriffe devised in 1567 for a similar educational purpose.







### THE FOUNDING OF TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

residue of the income from the messuages, etc., he bequeathed to the Company to be employed upon the needful repairs of the messuages and tenements, the overplus to be to the use and behoof of the Company to order and dispose at their will and pleasure."

On the 12th of May, 1564, a set of statutes and orders for the management of the School were approved by Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was then, apparently, that the Skinners Company began their long and wise control in accordance with the provision of the Letters Patent, which directed that after the death of Sir Andrew Judd, the Master, Wardens and Commonalty were to be the Governors. An early association with All Souls' College, Oxford, and the institution in the original statutes of three prizes of a "silver pen, whole of gilt, valued at 2s. 6d.; the second, a pen, parcel gilt, of the value of 2s.; and the third, a pen of silver, valued at 20d.," are among the links which still connect this great School with the time of its founder. But if the spirit of Sir Andrew Judd still hovers by the playing fields of Tonbridge or along the city ways which lead to Dowgate Hill, he must in truth be satisfied to think how well he built three centuries ago. A multitude of Englishmen think gratefully of Sir Andrew and of his intimate friend, Sir Thomas White, who gave Tonbridge a scholarship at his own foundation of St. John's College, Oxford, and of his grandson, Sir Thomas Smythe, who increased the endowment of the Tonbridge foundation itself. Nowadays, some 428 boys at the Great School of Tonbridge, and 165 at Sir Andrew Judd's Commercial School which is charged on the same foundation, as well as 152 boys at a Middle School at Tunbridge Wells, and 356 girls at the School at Stamford Hill, both recently founded out of other trust funds administered by the same governors, that is, 1100 of the youth of England, annually owe their training for life to the control of the Skinners Company.

In 1553, in Mr. Brangwyn's panel, one wistful lad of the people, clasping the model of that world whose possibilities lie open for his handling, sits dreaming at the conclave of his elders. Sir Andrew Judd, perhaps Sir Thomas White with him, is showing the Letters Patent of the school's charter to a group of Skinners. An hour-glass stands on the table, but the sands of time are innumerable. Flowers and the rolled parchments of wisdom and the lute of music's charm, these symbols of the real riches, are strewn about the boy who shall learn their uses in the schools of Tonbridge and of life itself.

## VI.

AN INCIDENT IN THE DEFENCE OF LONDON BRIDGE BY SIR ANDREW  
JUDD, A.D. 1554.

WHEN the City was still almost separate from Westminster and when the Globe Theatre and Bear Garden on the Southwark side were still unbuilt, it was possible for rebels to be very close to London Bridge without being in London. At Jack Cade's riding in Kent (1450), his followers tried to stop the supply of provisions from that county reaching London by water. Two citizens, one of whom was John Judd, a gentleman whose country home was at Barden, near Tonbridge, received orders to frustrate the scheme by patrolling the river.<sup>1</sup> Such was a citizen's duty, and John Judd performed it. Whether Andrew Judd, Knight, Lord Mayor of London in 1550, and six times Master of the Skinners' Company, was his son or grandson seems uncertain. But the man who takes an honoured place on the roll of Founders of our great English schools, and was as bold a traveller as he was prosperous a merchant, himself figured in 1554 in a similar stirring episode of London annals. When Sir Thomas Wyatt led the protest against Queen Mary's Spanish match with Philip and the dreaded arrival of the Inquisition into England, Southwark and Westminster were seized by the rebels. But at London Bridge the malcontents were met and suppressed by the loyalists. As a contemporary<sup>2</sup> tells us:—

"Wyat, and a few with him, went further as farre as the drawebridge; on the further side whereof he saw the Lorde Admirall, the Lorde Maiour, Sir Andrew Judde, and one or two other in consultation for ordering of the bridge, whereunto he gave diligent care a good tyme."

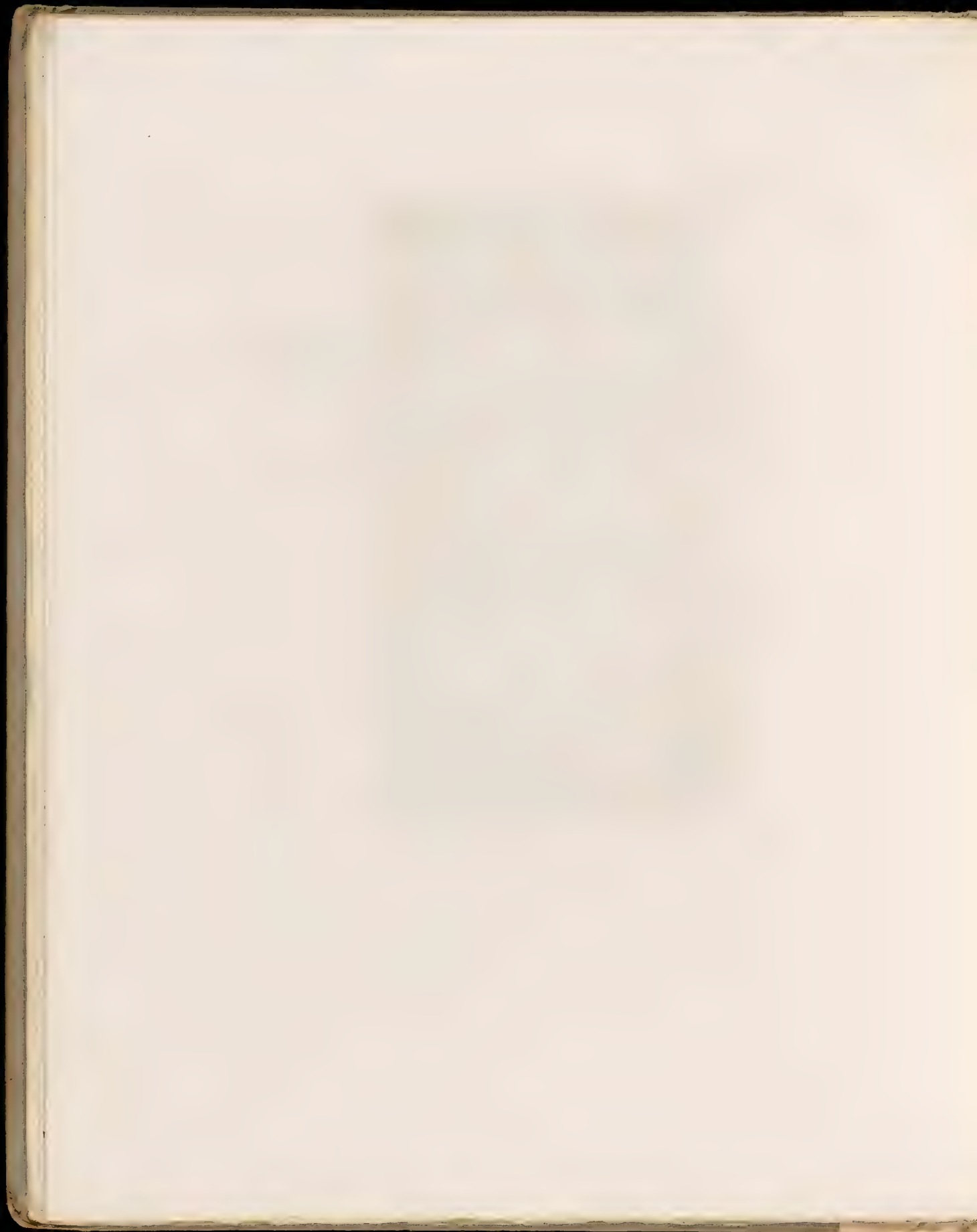
So did Sir Andrew Judd, Skinner, play his part just after he had founded Tonbridge School.

Mr. Brangwyn's panel narrates but an incident in this episode. London Bridge gleams white beyond a piece of garden on the banks of the river. A group of men-at-arms are halting to gaze at a man of the Catholic gentry who has fallen mortally wounded in a bed of flowers, a monk kneeling by his side to give him the last consolation of the dying.

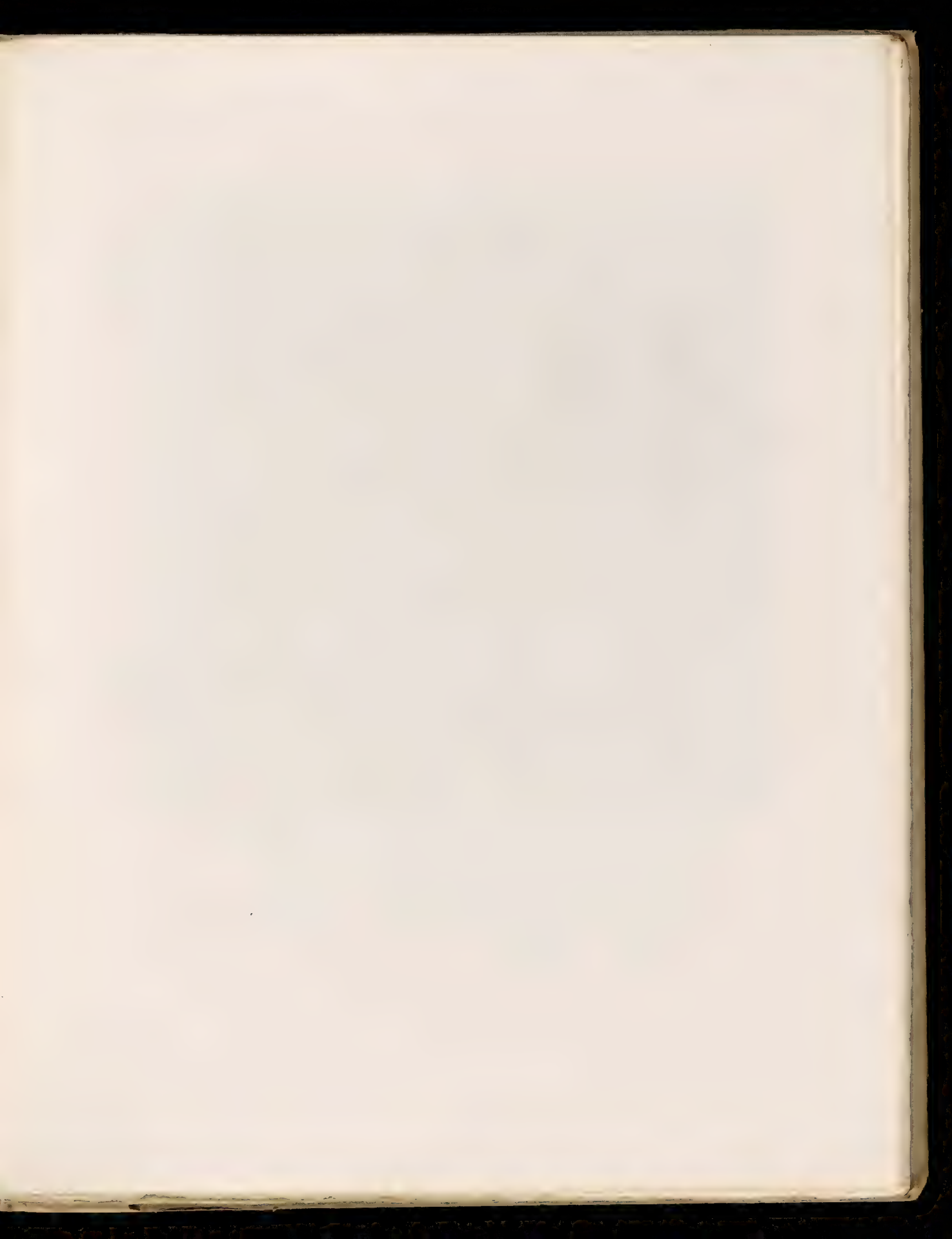
<sup>1</sup> *Early pleadings in Chancery*, lib. 19, fo. 135.

<sup>2</sup> Proctor, in his *History of Wyatt's Rebellion*, published in 1555.









VII.  
*A CITY PAGEANT IN OLDEN TIMES.*



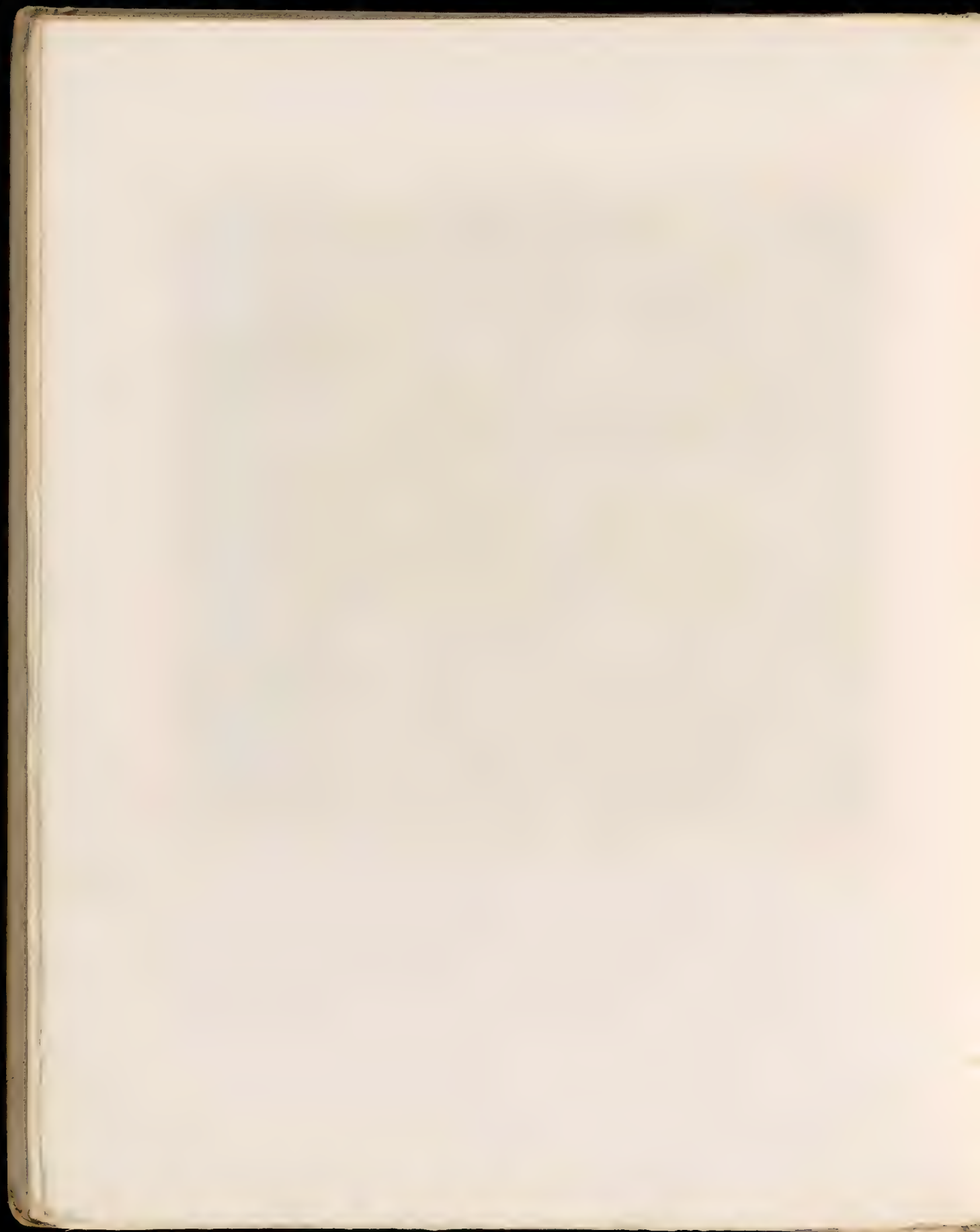
IN THE shady foreground of the street pass flower-decked trumpeters and standard-bearers, followed by rose-garlanded boys playing cymbals, whilst there march behind the boys, on the left, players of mandolines and divers antique musical instruments. In the middle of the sunlit roadway, strewn with flowers, stroll players of bagpipes and pipers. Beyond is seen a gilded car filled with the figures of boys arrayed in and carrying the Symbols of Plenty.

Athens, Rome, Florence, Venice, and Nuremberg, and London with them according to its northern clime, have all had their pageants in the days when citizens took leisure and found an exhilarating pride in the colour and joy of symbolical procession. The pageant was the display and the honest boasting of the prosperous; in olden days the theatre and the concert for the populace; it was for all the expression of the keen zest of industrial city-life, and perhaps, like the old Greek drama, it had its original sanction in religious observance.

We may suppose that Mr. Brangwyn has painted a vision of a Corpus Christi Festival in 1535-1536, when Robert Davy, George Crouch and Walter Bucknell, good Skinners all, with their ladies and their children and their apprentices and fellows of the Guild, made holiday on a summer's day in Cheapside. It was an occasion for burying the quarrels of the year. Let us hope that William Turnor was reconciled to the fine of five shillings, imposed by the Master and Wardens "for that he revyled and myssayd ongoddly wordes to George Forman." Three shillings, according to the extant accounts of the Renter Wardens, was sufficient to meet the case of George Forman "for slaunders wordes and mysbehavyor to the sayd William Turnor the same day."

The following item, taken from the same accounts, gives some quaint detail of the expense of such a payment as fell in 1534 in the Mayoralty of Sir John Champneis, the Skinner whose jovial dignity is recorded in a fine portrait lately discovered and presented to the Company by the generosity of a recent Master.

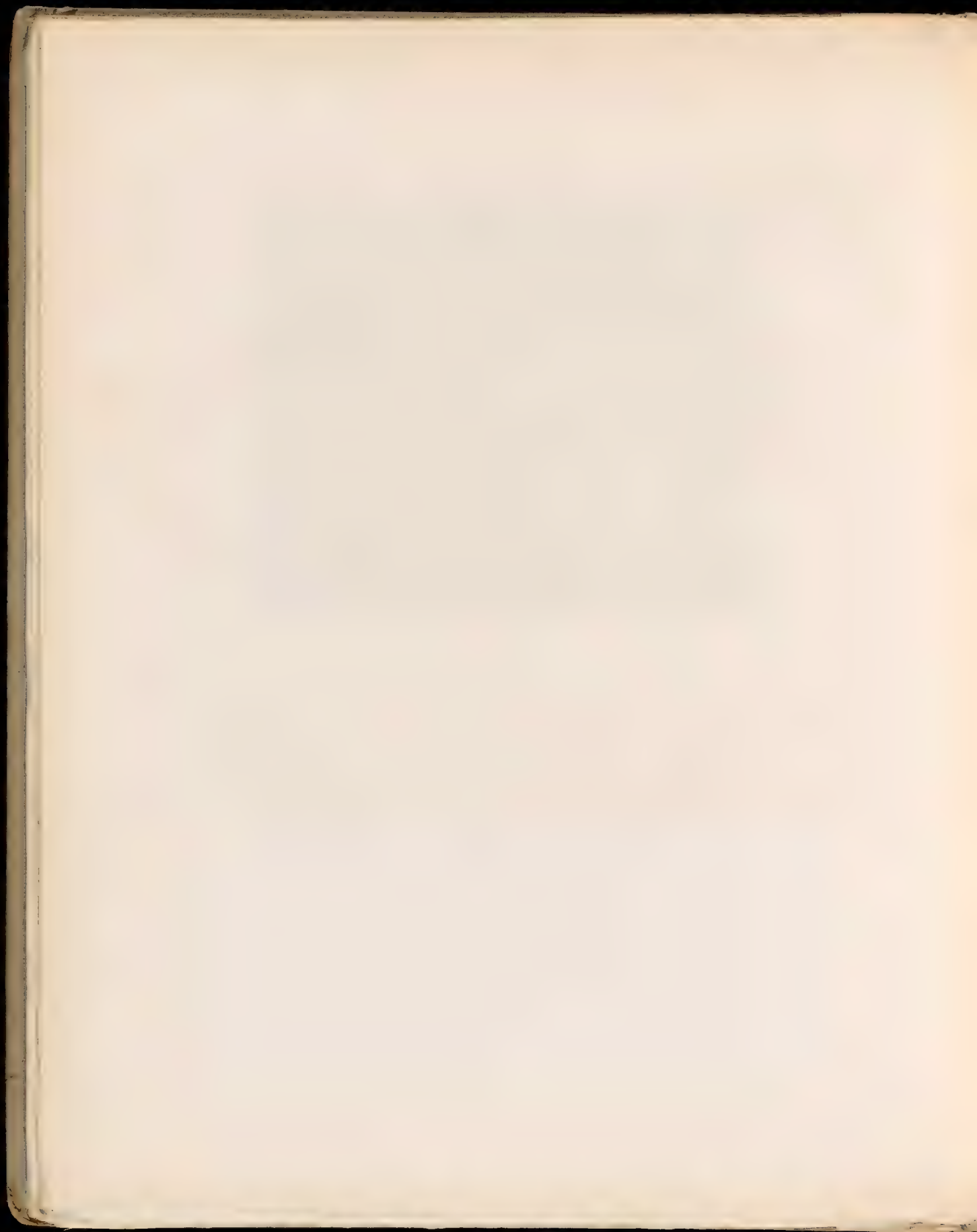




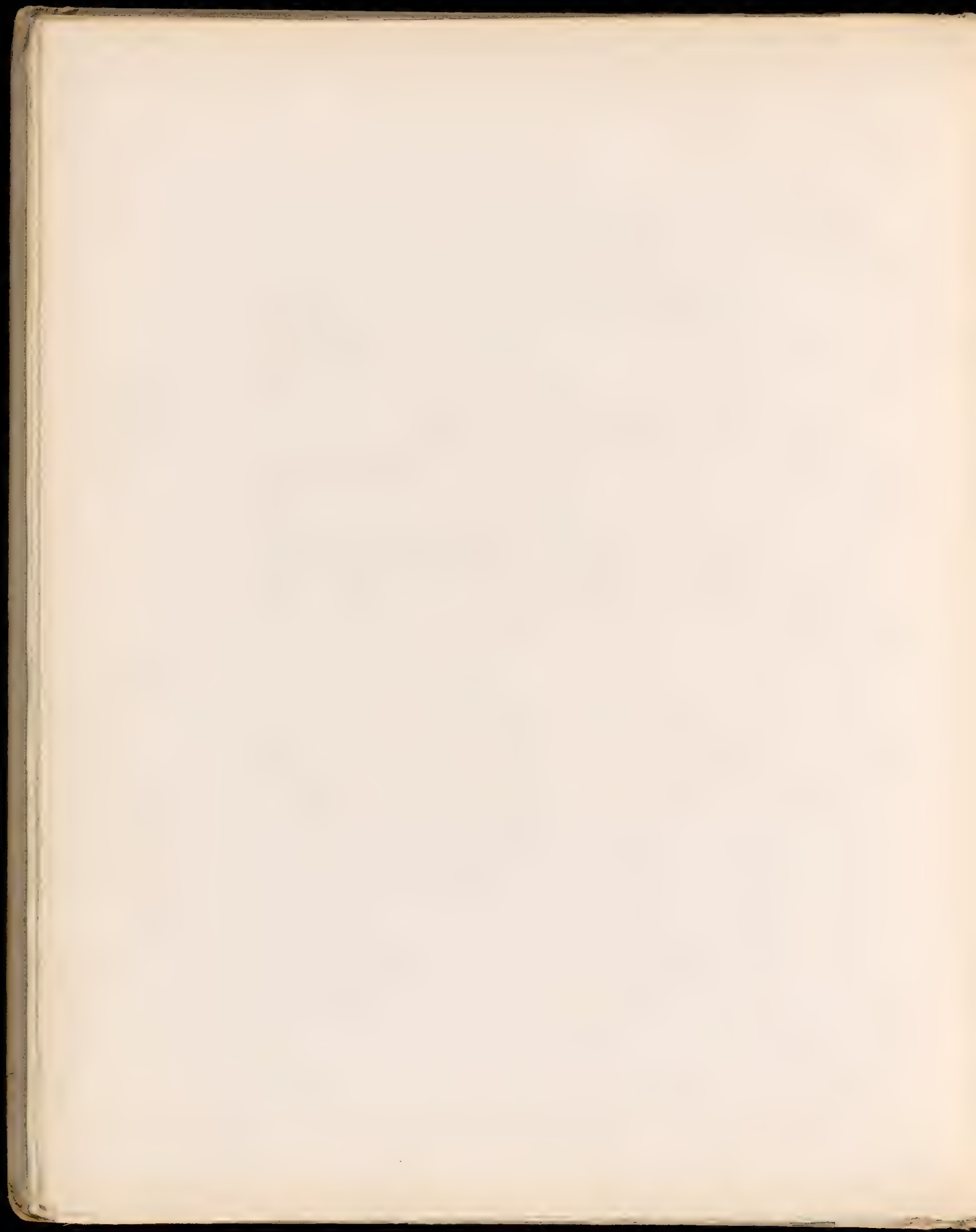












*A CITY PAGEANT IN OLDEN TIMES*

"Item payd to Alysander Paynter Stayner  
for the newe makynge of ij Pagentes thone  
of Kynge Salomon and thother of Seynt John  
Evangelyst and for the newe trymyng of twoo  
other thone representynge the Kynge and  
thother Corpus Xpi, xijli. xs. And also the  
makynge and workmanshipe of an Angelles  
Cote, and vij peyr of Angelles wynges and for  
the makynge of iiij newe Crownes and the  
mendynge of vij other Crownes, for the child-  
rene that dyd synge in the pagentes And ij  
ymperiall Crownes and iiij bases for the pag-  
entes and for the refresshyng of the gyant and  
his mamettes<sup>1</sup> And for the refresshyng of  
the same pagentes after Midsomer And for  
vij men for waytinge on the said pagentes  
wherehof vj were workemen for bothe the  
nyghtes xlvjs. viijd. Summa . . . xiiijli. xvjs. viijd."

<sup>1</sup> i.e., puppets.

VIII.

THE DEPARTURE OF SIR JAMES LANCASTER FOR THE  
EAST INDIES, 1594.

*"Eastward ho ! with a rumbelow.  
And hurrah for the foreign Main, O !"*



THE sailors are chanting the merry catch to drown their care ; the cables creak and the warps strain ; the blocks rattle with loose halyards, except where the impatient sails are bellying in the breeze that shall bear these adventurers down the Thames to the ocean. Such is the scene, imaged forth for our eyes, and almost for our ears, in the background of this panel. In front, upon the steps of a jetty at Deptford, near the home of Sir Thomas Smythe, that worthy Skinner is bidding 'good voyage' to his brother of the Guild, Sir James Lancaster. Swarthy in complexion, alert in his bearing,<sup>1</sup> this sea-captain is departing on a second expedition for the East Indies. He is eagerly awaited by an escort of armed mariners and drummers ; another boat is held to the quay by a bare-backed sailor, who is approached by boys carrying provisions from the steps. It is a sight which frequently stirred the hearts of Elizabeth's England.

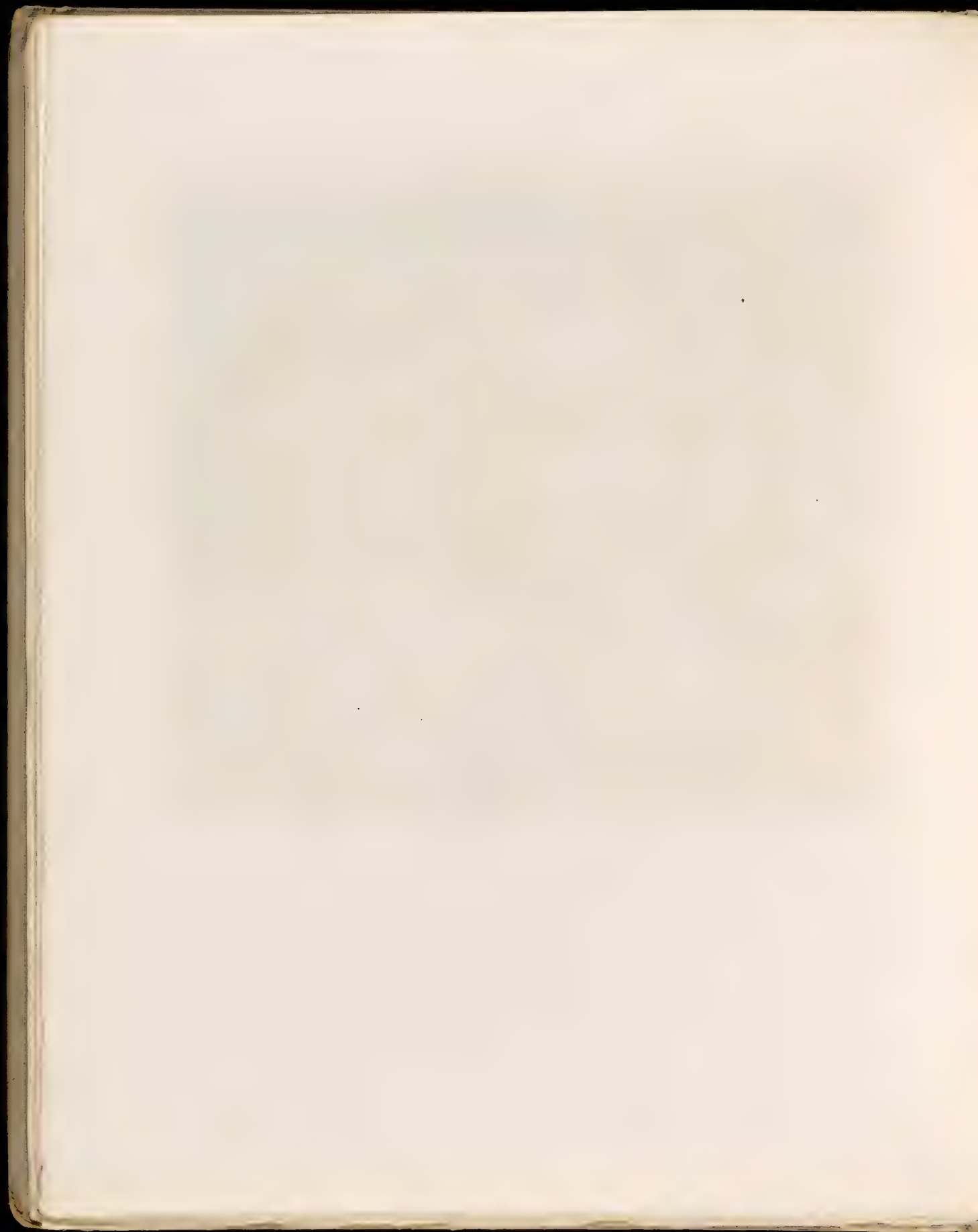
Sir James Lancaster, born at Basingstoke, was the pioneer of the English trade with the East Indies. After spending his youth among the Portuguese, he returned to England before the war broke out with Spain. In the gallant fleet which met Phillip's great Armada, he commanded the "Edward Bonaventure" of 300 tons, under Drake. In 1591, commanding the same ship, he made his first voyage to the East Indies in company with one Raymond of the "Penelope" and Samuel Foxcroft of the "Merchant Royal." The "Penelope" foundered in a storm and went down with all hands. The "Merchant Royal" returned home from Table Bay with scurvy cases. Such was navigation in Tudor Days ! Lancaster's ship, after being struck by lightning and losing many of her crew in an affray with the natives of the Coromo Islands, cruised more successfully on the Martaban Coast, and sailed for Ceylon and Porto Rico. Her commander eventually landed in England in 1594, with a rich booty but few of his crew.

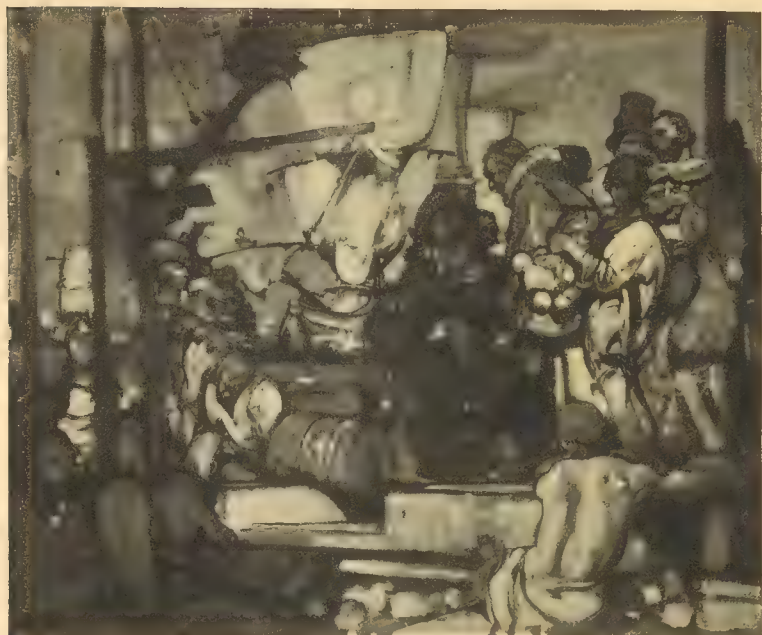
In this same year he again went out with an expedition fitted out by the aid of City merchants, much as Shackleton and Scott have left our coasts in modern days. At

50 <sup>1</sup> Among the paintings hung at Skinners' Hall are a contemporary and interesting portrait of Sir Thomas Smythe, as Captain of the City Trained Band, and an excellent copy, recently presented by a Past-Master, of a portrait of Sir John Lancaster which is in private possession.





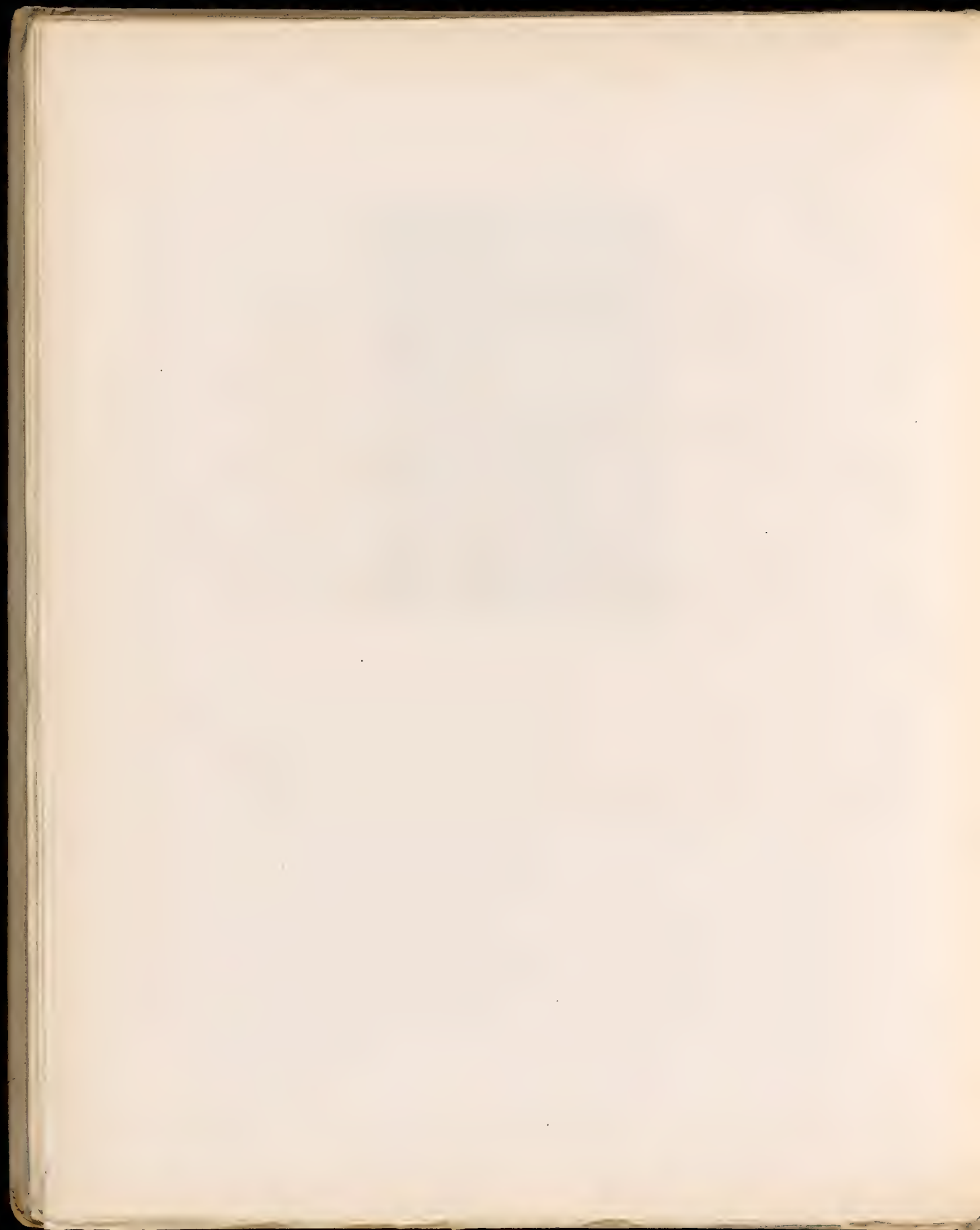












### *THE DEPARTURE OF SIR JAMES LANCASTER*

Pernambuco he "found" (such is the euphemism of these tales of freebooting!) a large store of East Indian and Brazilian produce, and he carried it home in three ships borrowed from the Dutch and one Frenchman.

These voyages brought the East India Company to birth. On the last day of 1600 the Queen signed the Charter of "the Governor and Company of the Merchants of London trading to the East Indies," conferring exclusive rights to trade for fifteen years to all parts of Asia, Africa and America, beyond the Cape of Good Hope eastwards as far as the Straits of Magellan, "excepting such countries or ports as might be in the actual possession of any Christian Prince in comity with the Queen." A few weeks later, Lancaster left Woolwich with 481 men in four ships, his own being the "Red Dragon," formerly the "Malice Scourge." The agents whom he planted on Java founded the Company's first factories. He himself reached home in 1603, six months after the Queen's death.

Sir James Lancaster died in 1618, and the benefits of his Will were extended not only to the poor of London, Southwark, Basingstoke and Kingsclere, and the prisoners in certain London prisons, but also to "three poor scholars who should study Divinity in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge," according to the discretion of the Master and Wardens of the Skinners' Company, and to poor widows whose husbands had been Freemen of the Guild.

## IX.

## RECEPTION OF GENERAL MONK AT THE SKINNERS' HALL, APRIL 4th, 1660.

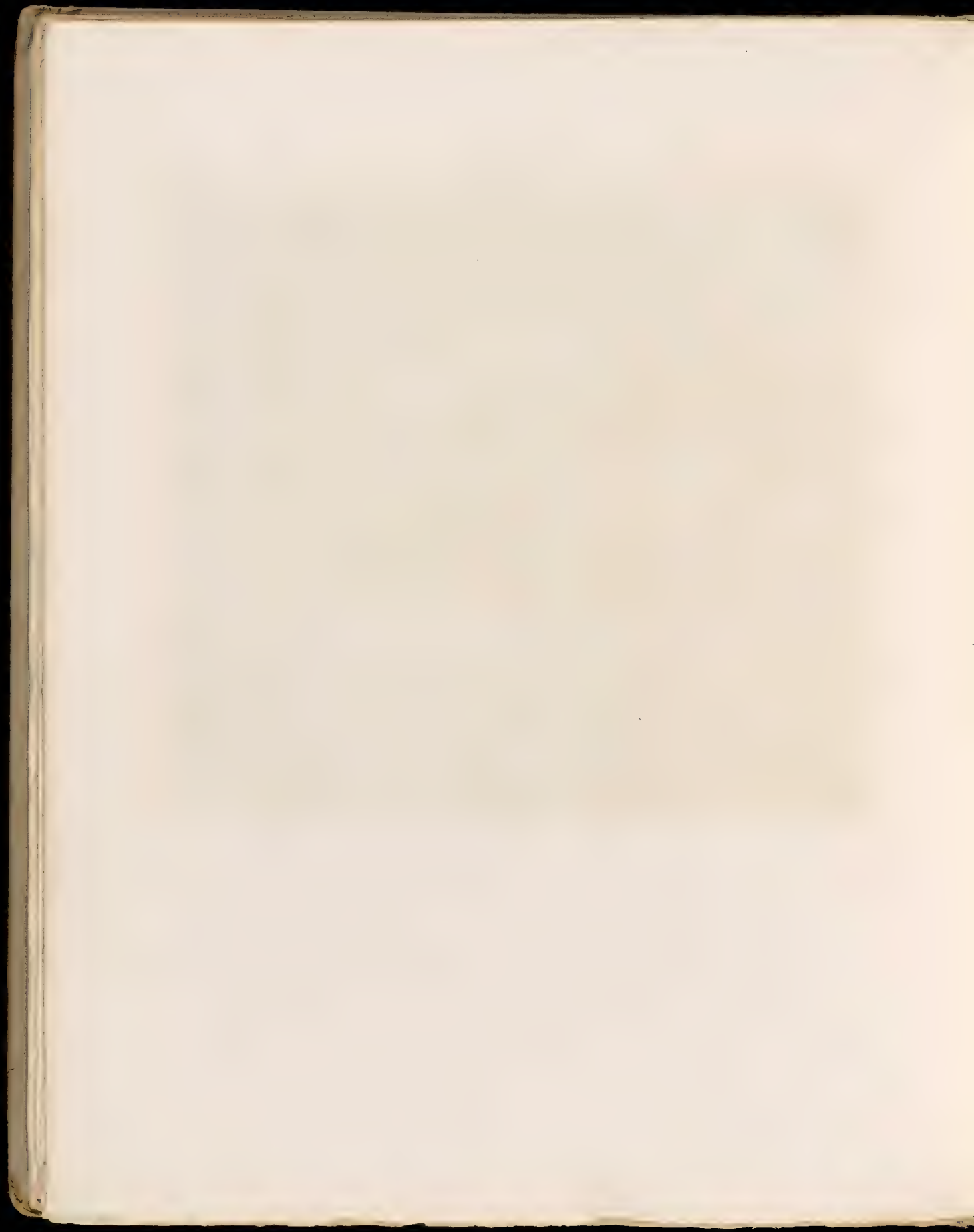


EARLY in the previous February Monk, "the ablest of Cromwell's generals," as President Roosevelt has called him in his critical study of Cromwell's rule, brought the army from Scotland to London. For nearly eighteen months the feeble Richard had failed to maintain the situation won by that mighty and practical mystic, his father, Oliver. "Perceiving," as Evelyn says in his diary of what he heads *Annus Mirabilis*, "how infamous and wretched a pack of knaves would have still usurped the supreme power," Monk broke down the gates of London and began to prepare for the restoration of Charles II. The cry of "a free Parliament" had run like fire through the country. "The Rump" had gone. The solemn League and Covenant of "The Convention" was giving a Presbyterian colour to the House of Commons, when Monk, sturdiest of opportunists, in April suddenly marshalled a muster of 18,600 City soldiery in Hyde Park. It was at the moment when he was negotiating with the exiled Court. Six weeks later, after the Declaration from Breda had awoken a burst of national enthusiasm by its promises of general pardon, religious toleration and satisfaction to the army, "the merrie Monarch" landed at Dover. "It is my own fault" said Charles, in his own vein of amiable cynicism, "that I had not come back sooner; for I find nobody who does not tell me he has always longed for my return!"

In Evelyn we read that on the 29th of May Charles entered the City, "the ways strewed with flowers, the bells ringing, the streets hung with tapestry, fountains running with wine; the Mayor, Aldermen and all the Companies, in their liveries, chains of gold and banners; Lords and Nobles, clad in cloth of silver, gold and velvet; the windows and balconies, all set with ladies; trumpets, music and myriads of people flocking." One wonders what Milton thought of it all, the last of the Elizabethans, hiding in a friend's house in Bartholomew Close, and sternly nursing the grand simplicity of his blind old age.

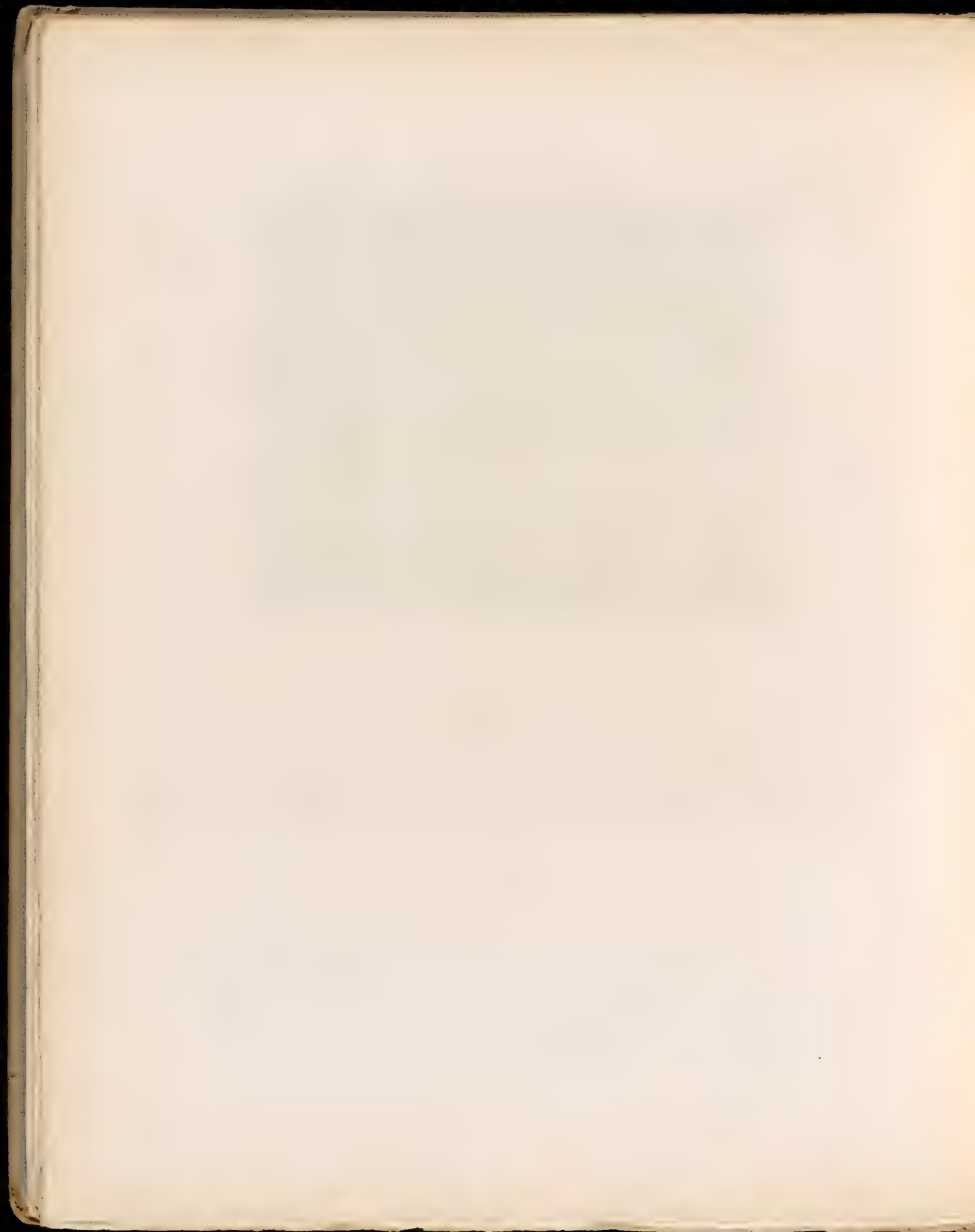
At Skinners' Hall, in the intervening April, Monk had secured, as it were, a small



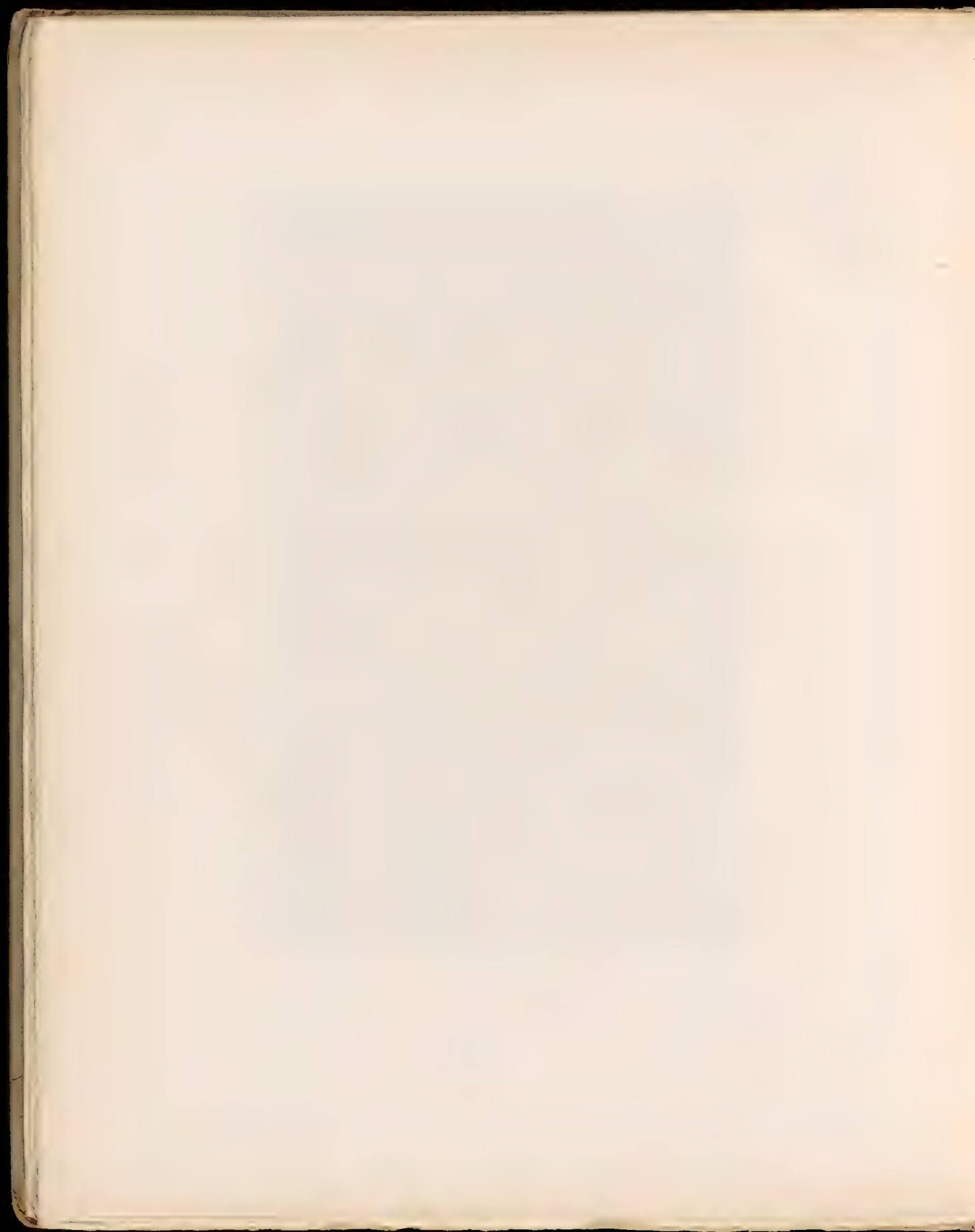












#### RECEPTION OF GENERAL MONK AT SKINNERS' HALL

rehearsal of this triumph. It is uncertain whether the Banquet to which he was invited by a resolution arrived at by the Court of the Company on the 19th of March, was the work of Sir Robert Tichborne, Master in 1650, Lord Mayor in 1656, and one of those Members of the Court of the Commons, who in 1649 had signed the fatal warrant against Charles I. The more closely one studies these few troubled weeks of England's crisis, the more confused and mixed do the motives of men appear. The feast, however, was held with all solemnity. The Royal Arms are said to have been restored in the Hall for the occasion. The Lord General attended with his wife, once Nan Clarges, the sempstress, who in a few weeks became the Duchess of Abermarle; it may well be that she was assisting the Restoration while she dined at Skinners' Hall.

In Mr. Brangwyn's panel, Monk is to be seen ascending the staircase in the background, among the officers of the Guild and the merchants who are his hosts or fellow-guests. Above him wait the Master and Wardens. In front, composed in a pale colour-scheme of yellow, lilac and green, a gay troupe of train-bearers and an odd company of vagabonds and beggars are set in an accidental contrast which amuses the gaze of the spectator. The latter are the uninvited guests and will not hear the Panegyric spoken to "the Deliverer;" but they will celebrate the occasion noisily in their own way.



## X.

SIR THOMAS PILKINGTON'S BANQUET TO KING WILLIAM THE THIRD  
AND QUEEN MARY, A.D. 1684.

THE last of Mr. Brangwyn's painted episodes represents an incident in the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Pilkington, twice Master of the Company and Lord Mayor of the City in a critical time for the three years 1689 to 1691. His strength and credit must have been great. In continuity of useful service he was the nearest London has seen to the admirable type of the Burgermeisters who do so much for German cities. He was a strong partisan against the Court party at the close of the reign of Charles II. and during the dismal rule of James. From 1682, after being Master of the Guild, he lay in prison for four years for *scandalum magnatum* against James as Duke of York. Later, he was sent to the Tower and heavily fined for technical illegalities in Shrievalty Elections. But the esteem in which he was held by the best citizens was such that in the dark weeks ending 1688, when James fled in pale terror from his kingship and his country, when thousands of housebreakers and cutpurses stole out from every London den of vice and mingled with the crowds of idle apprentices who wished merely for the excitement of a riot, this sturdy Mayor did great work as chief magistrate.

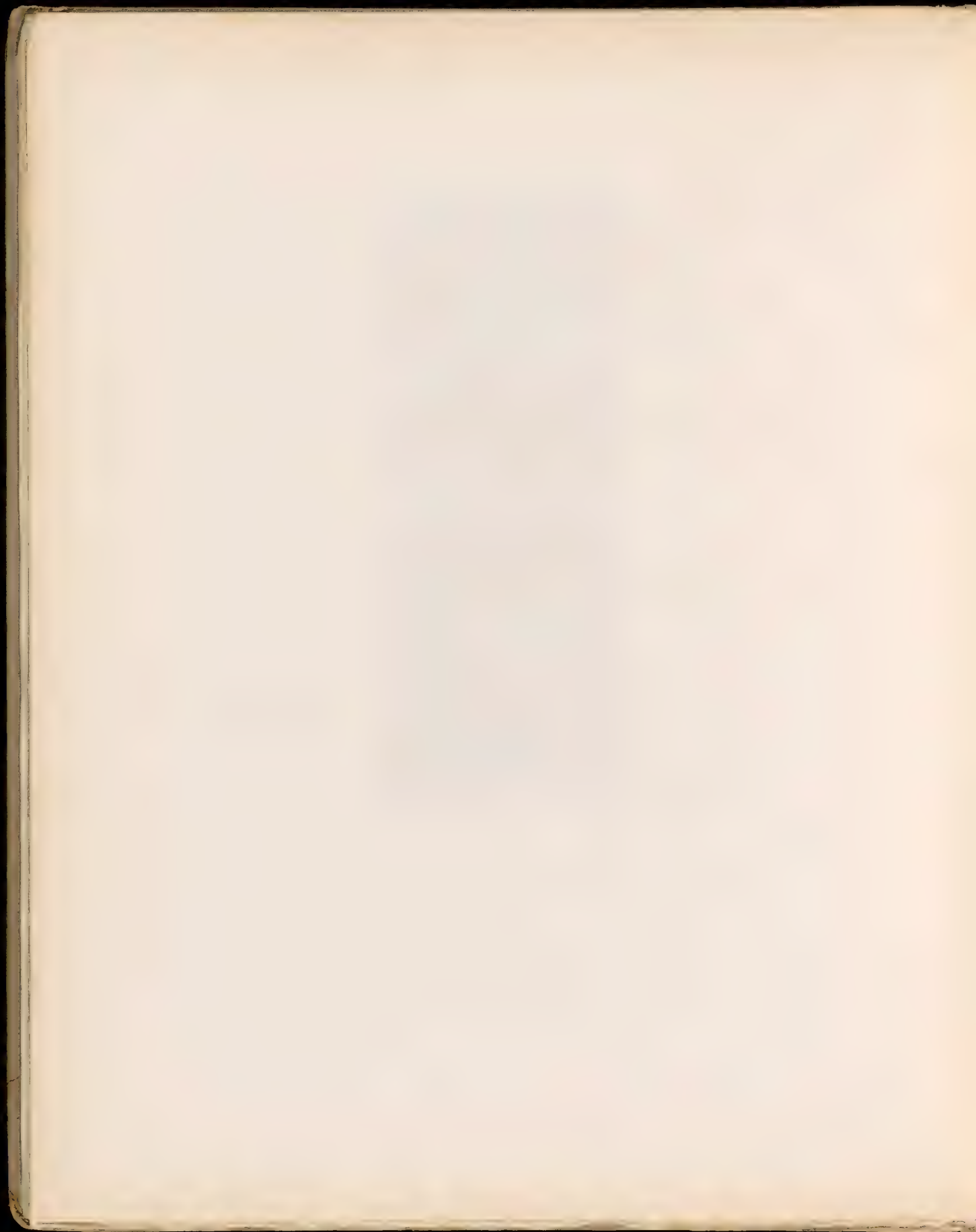
It was a time when London was still a single city and not an over-vast and amorphous system of municipalities. As Lord Macaulay<sup>1</sup> has said :—

"The magnificence displayed by the first civic magistrate was almost regal. The gilded coach, indeed, which is annually admired by the crowd, was not yet a part of his state. On great occasions he appeared on horseback, attended by a long calvacade, inferior in magnificence only to that which, before a coronation, escorted the Sovereign from the Tower to Westminster. The Lord Mayor was never seen in public without his rich robe, his hood of black velvet, his gold chain, his jewel and a great attendance of harbingers and guards. Nor did the world find anything ludicrous in the pomp which constantly surrounded him. For it was not more than became the place which, as wielding the strength and representing the dignity of the City of London, he was entitled to occupy in















*SIR THOMAS PILKINGTON'S BANQUET*

the State. That City being then not only without equal in the country, but without second, had, during five-and-forty years, exercised almost as great an influence on the politics of England as Paris has, in our own time, exercised on the politics of France."

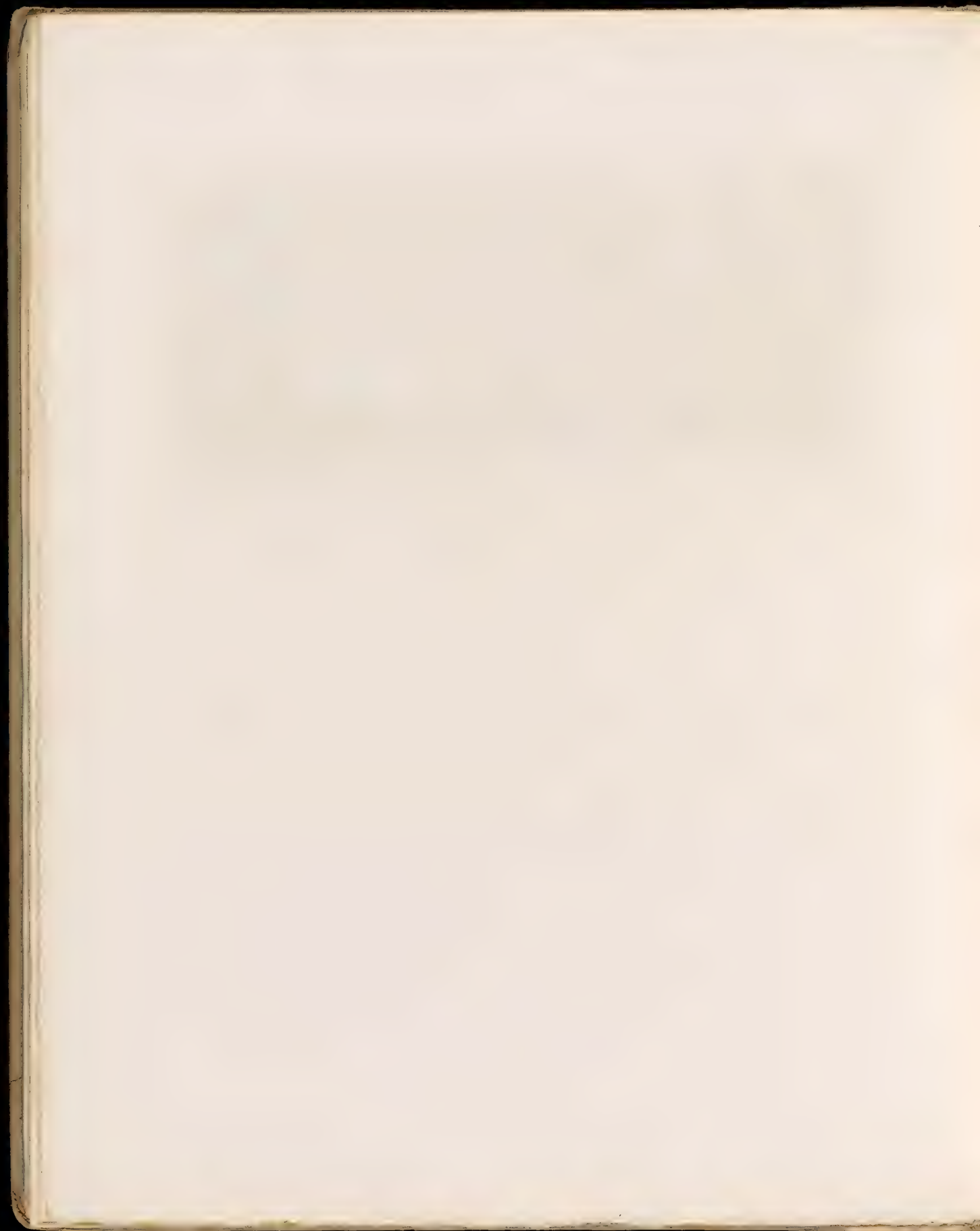
This was the kind of Mayor who in the second year of the comfort-giving reign of King William and Queen Mary celebrated the Special Act of Parliament which had restored the City to its ancient rights by asking his Sovereigns to a banquet in the Hall which his fellow-Skinners appear to have taken a peculiar pleasure in lending for the purpose.<sup>1</sup> They were presented with "boxes of gold to ye value of £60 . . . with their freedoms." They were accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Denmark, all the principal officers of the Court and both Houses of Parliament, the Bishop of London and all the chief prelates of the Church, the Lords Commissioners of the Privy Seal, the Lords Chief Justice of both Benches, the Lord Baron and all the learned Judges in the Law, the four Dutch and other foreign Ambassadors, Envoys and Residents. It was a distinguished company. Only a glimpse of it can now be seen across two centuries and beyond the great fruits and handsome fare that are borne by the serving-men in the foreground of this last of the panels adorning the very Hall which contained it.

<sup>1</sup> *Court Books of the Company, under date November 25th, 1690.*

XI.  
"HARMONY"

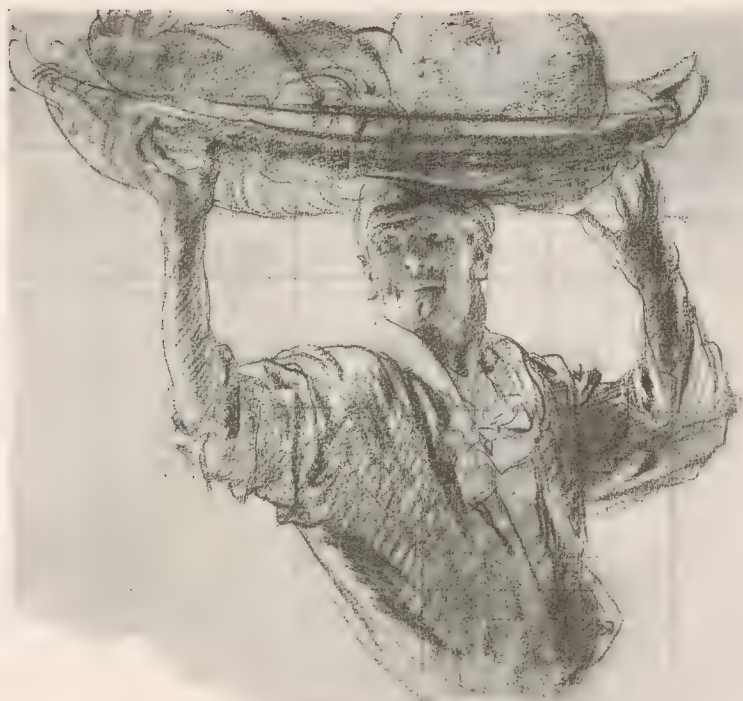
















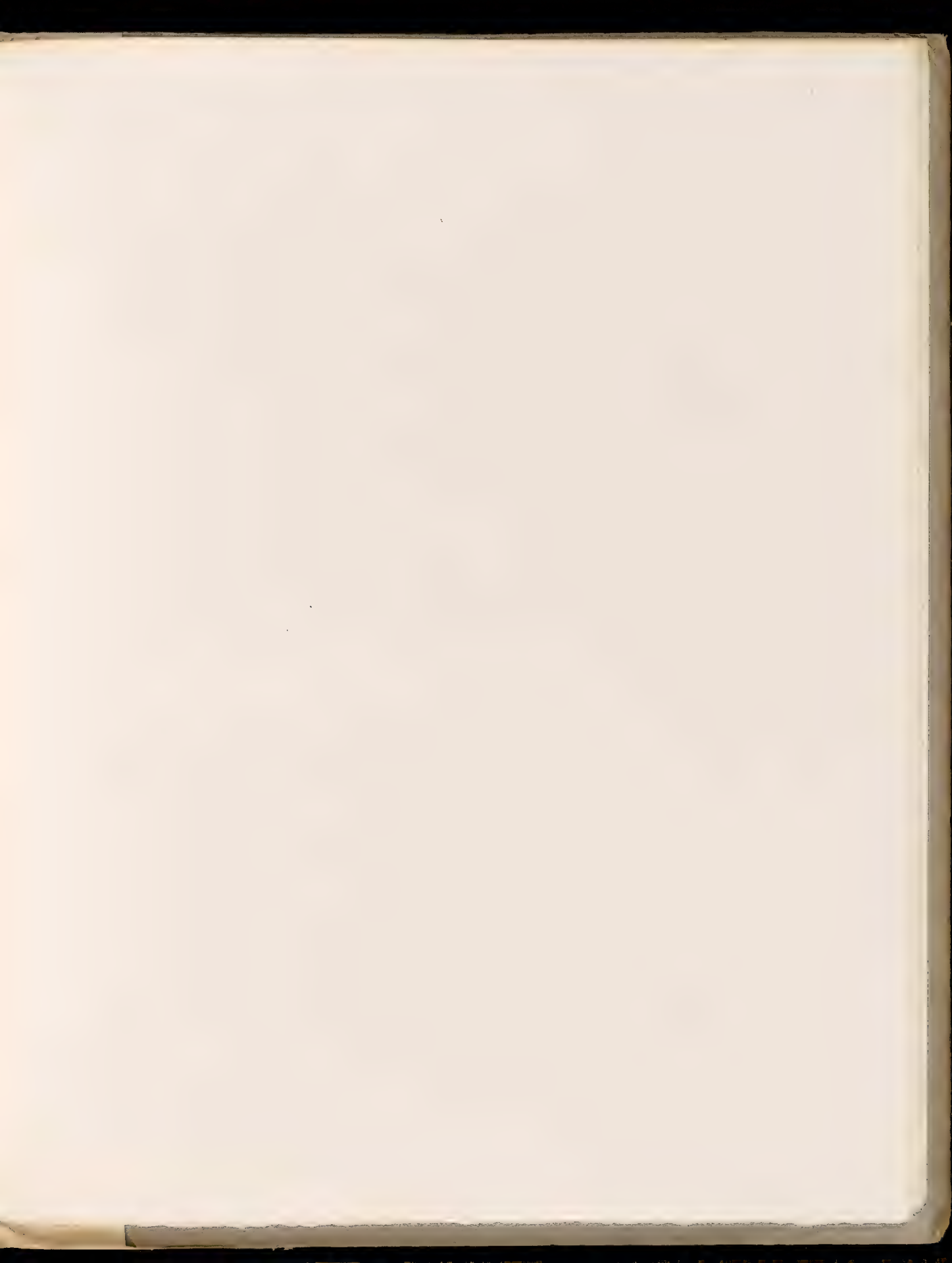
THE END OF THE BOOK OF THE HISTORICAL PANELS BY  
FRANK BRANGWYN IN THE HALL OF THE WORSHIPFUL  
COMPANY OF SKINNERS LONDON DESCRIBED BY WARWICK  
H. DRAPER, AND ORNAMENTED WITH INITIALS DESIGNED  
BY THE PAINTER AND CUT ON WOOD BY H. G. WEBB, AND  
PRINTED BY HIM AT THE CARADOC PRESS, RAVENSCOURT  
SQUARE, HAMMERSMITH, DECEMBER, MDCCCXIX.

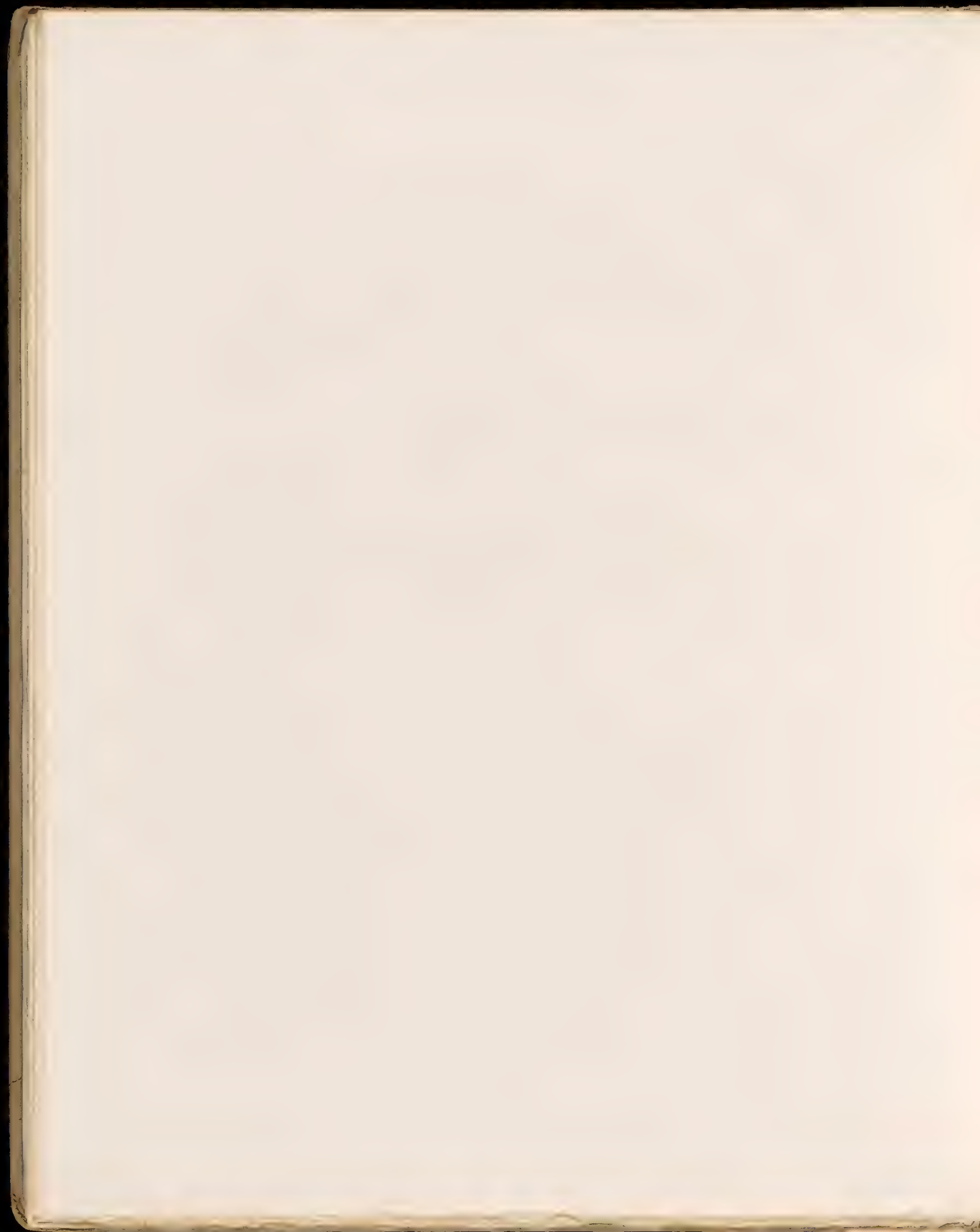


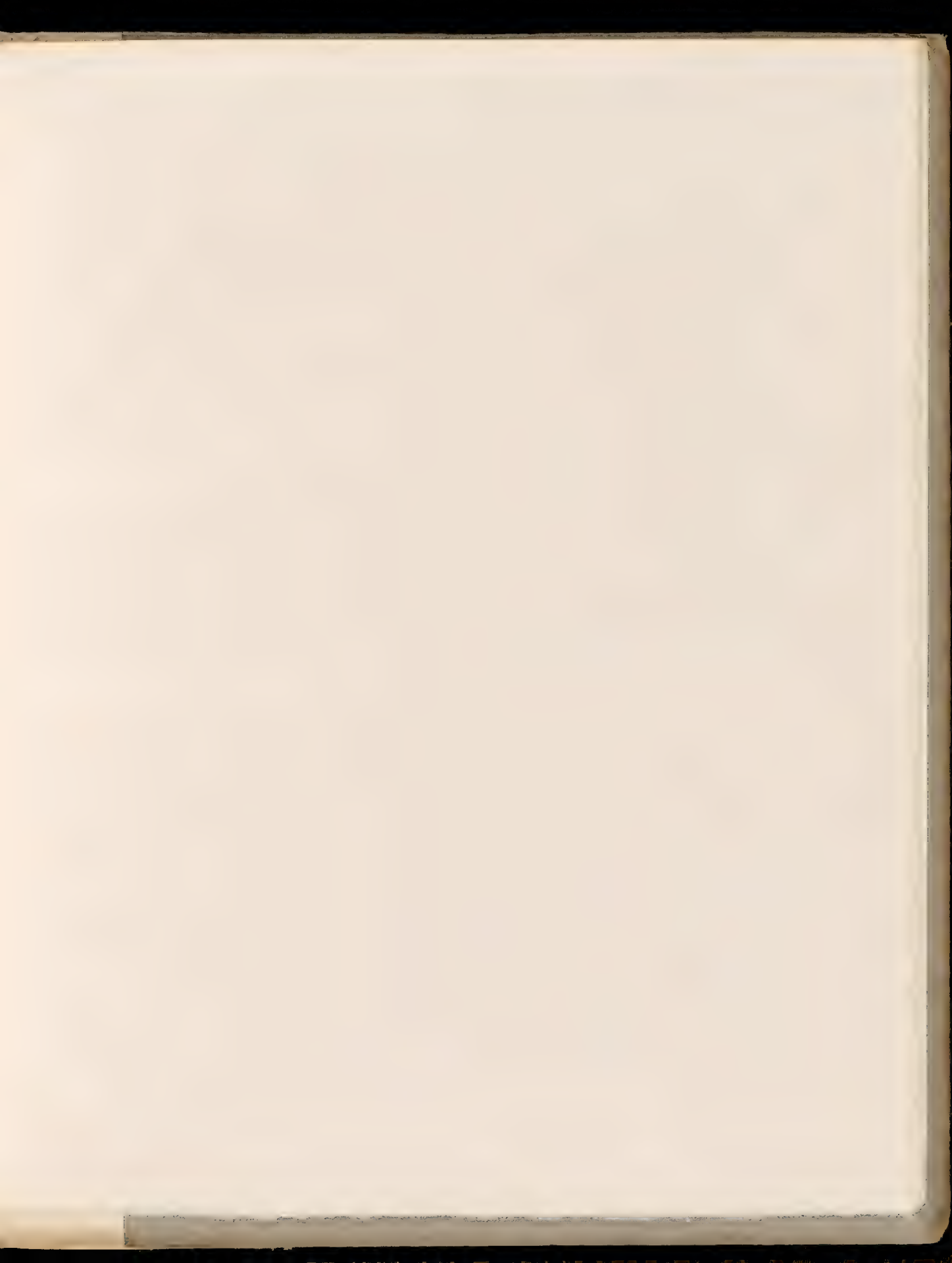
*The Edition of this Book is limited to 25 Copies on  
Japanese Vellum and 300 Copies on hand-made paper,  
numbered consecutively.*

*This is No. 8.*

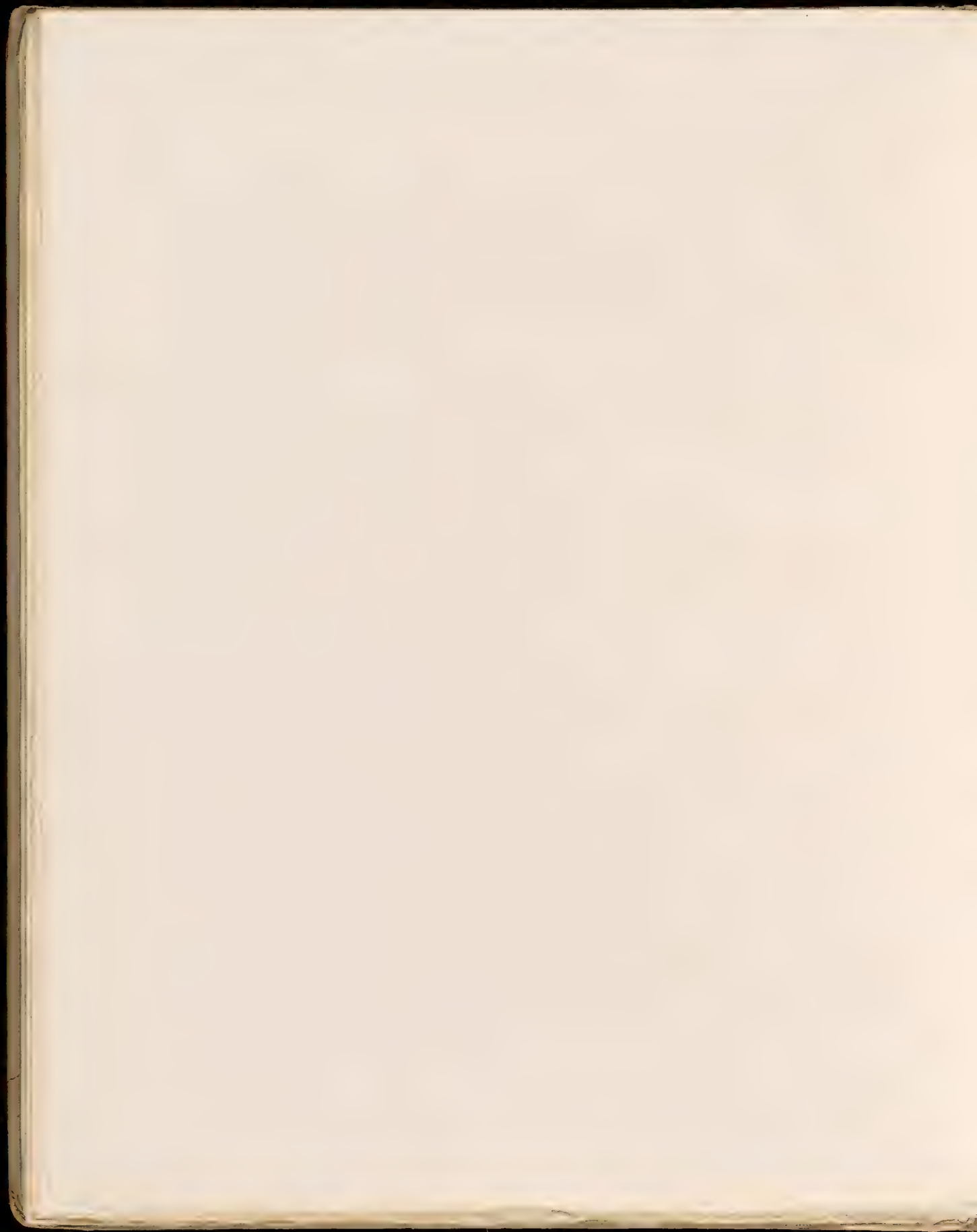


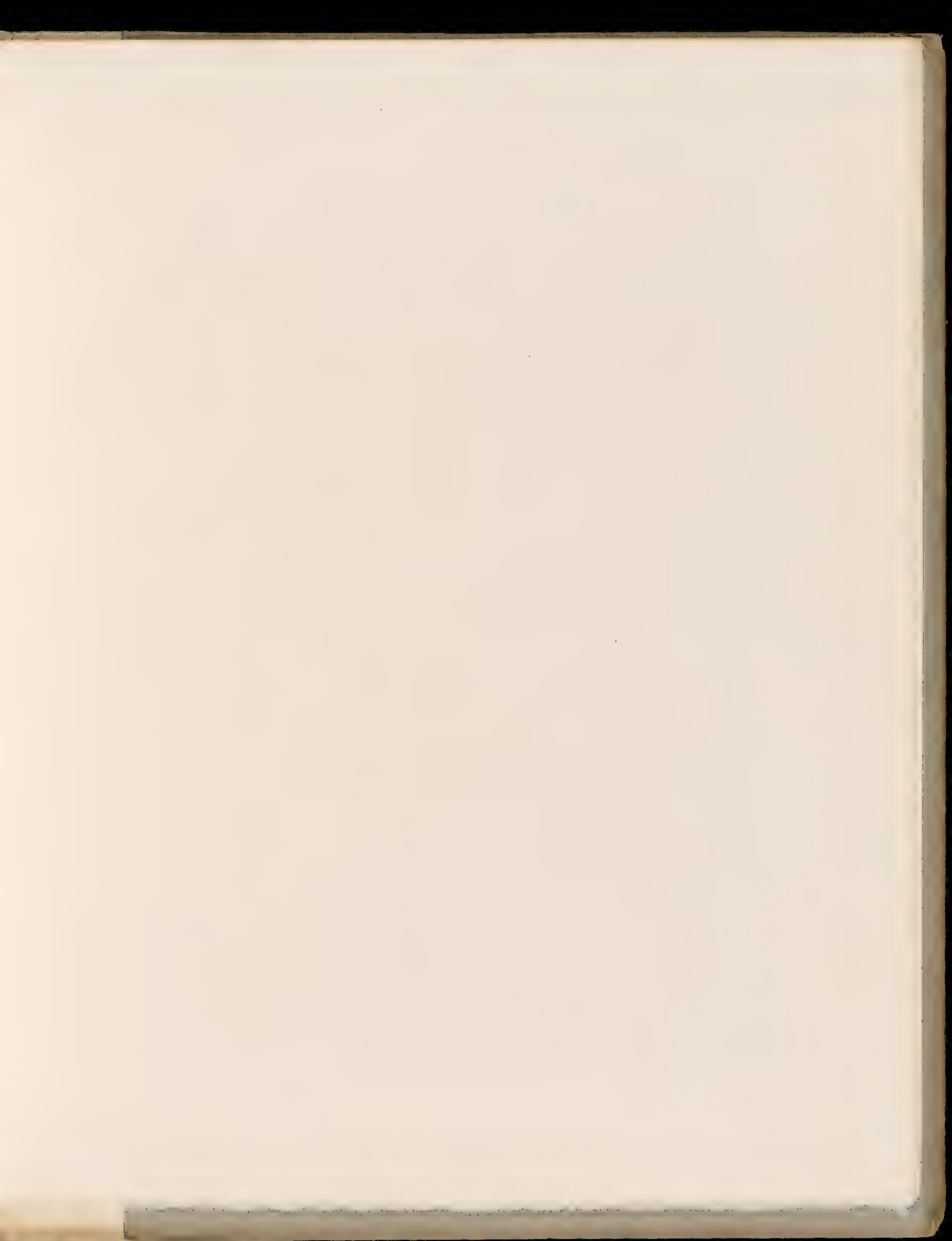


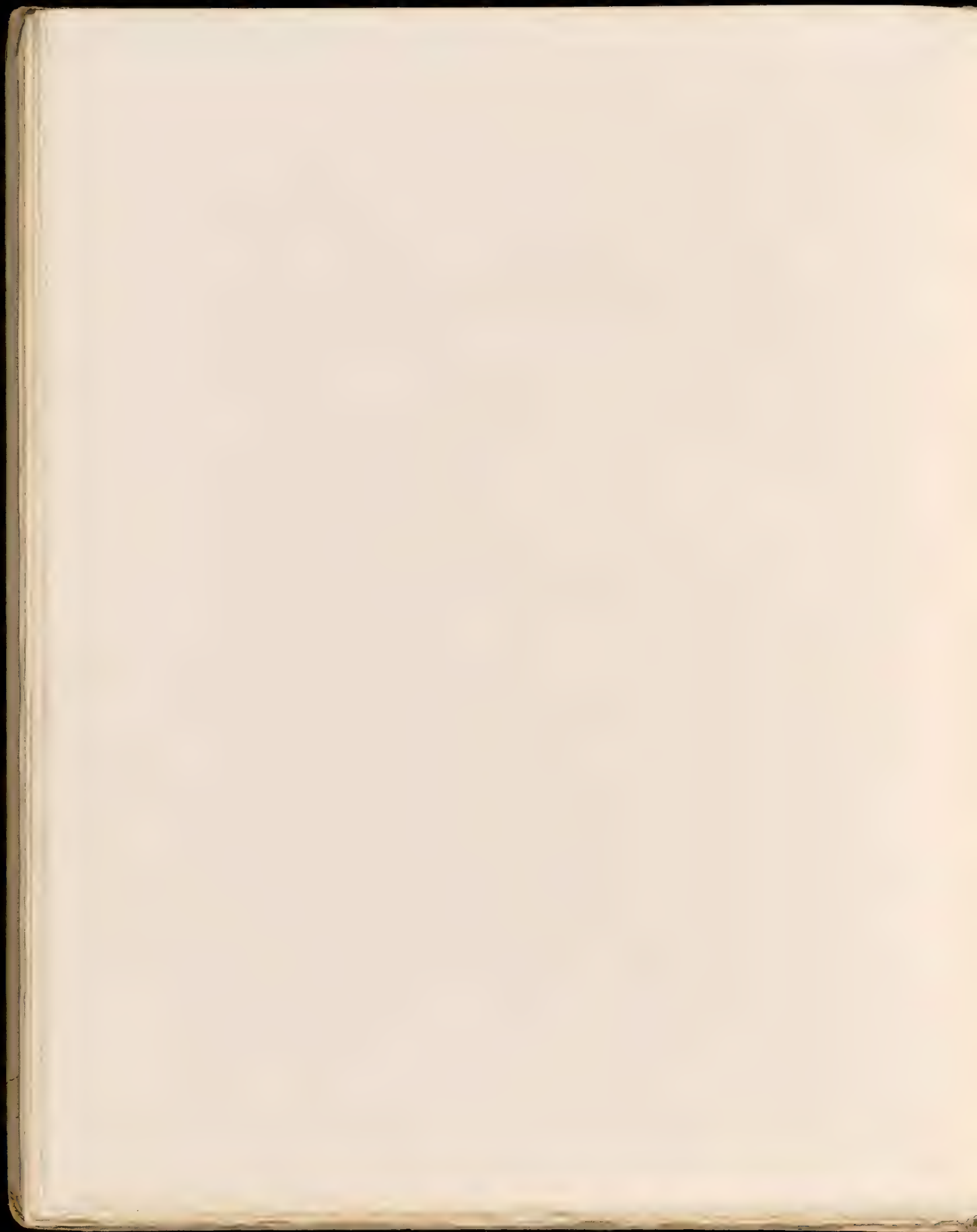


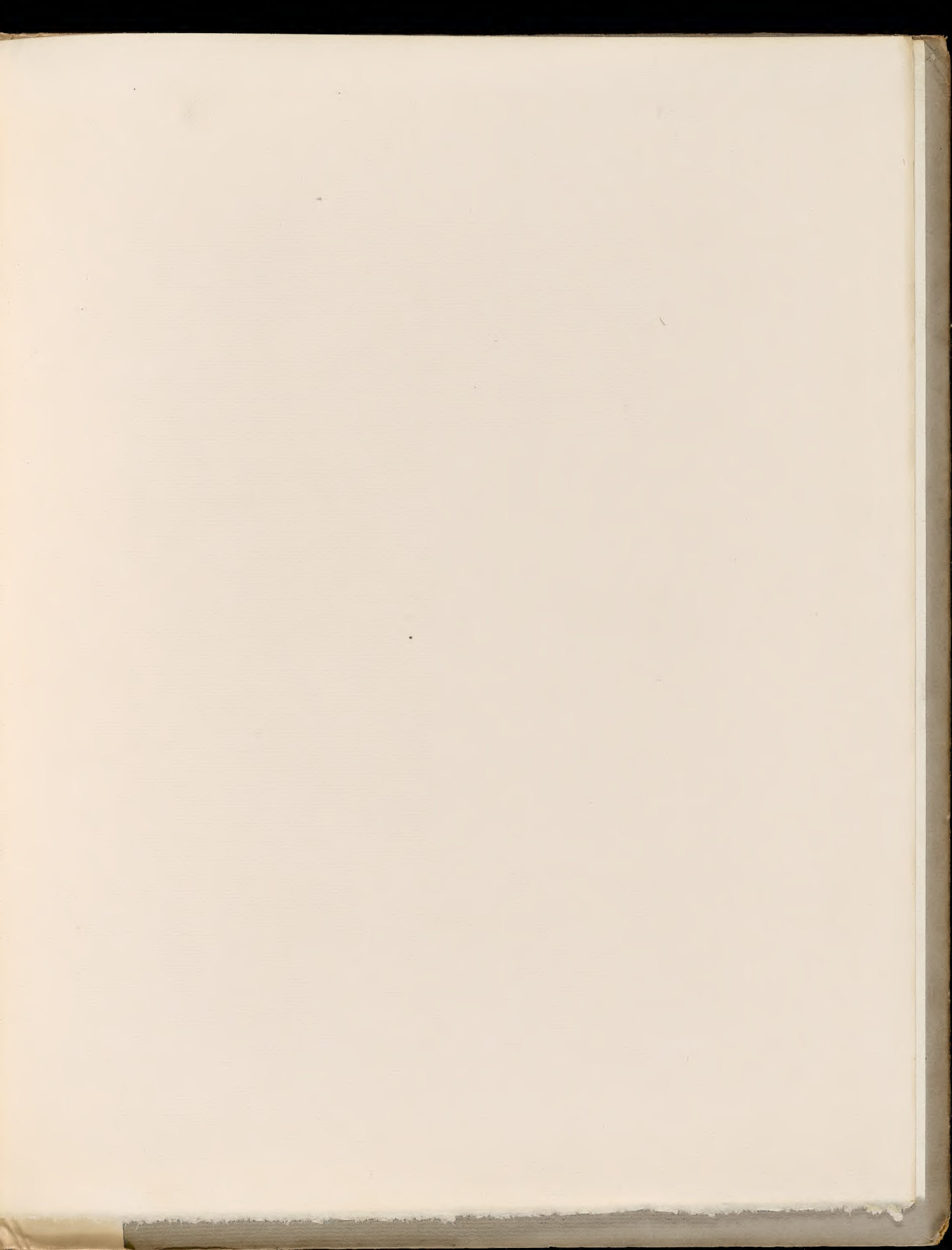












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